

BATTLE OF CABLE ST

How anti-fascists triumphed on the streets of east London 80 years ago >> **Pages 10&11**

STAND UP TO RACISM CONFERENCE

Saturday 8 October, London

● Speakers include Jeremy Corbyn, Alf Dubs & Diane Abbott ● Tickets from standuptoracism.org.uk



MIND YOUR GRAMMAR

Tory plans for selection in schools face resistance >> **Page 7**

Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2524 | 5-11 October 2016 | socialistworker.co.uk

● CALAIS CLAMPDOWN ● SLAUGHTER IN SYRIA

LET IN ALL THE REFUGEES

STOP TORY WAR ON MIGRANTS

SOUTHERN RAIL

Privatisers' threat to sack all strikers

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

TRAIN GUARDS on Southern Rail faced the sack unless they accepted a new role and agreed to bosses' terms by Thursday this week.

The Tories' favourite rail firm, Southern's operator Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), laid down the outrageous ultimatum on Monday ahead of a fresh wave of planned strikes.

GTR boss Charles Horton said his sacking threat is an "incredibly reasonable offer".

Transport minister Chris Grayling called it a "perfectly sensible" way of conducting industrial relations—if you don't get your way, impose it.

While Southern's bosses



Southern trains are off the rails

attack the rail unions, its service has gone from bad to woeful.

Train guards are fighting to retain their safety roles. Bosses want to make them focus on issuing penalty fares, with passengers' safety left to drivers alone.

This driver only operation is a priority for the Tories along with closing ticket offices and slashing jobs.

That's why Grayling protects GTR's profits despite mass cancellations and chronic delays. Rail unions must fight the threat—and everyone should back them.

And we need to renationalise our railways with no compensation to the privatisation parasites.

>> **see page 18 for more**



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'More brains in the tent, please'

Shadow Housing and Planning minister **Teresa Pearce** appeals for junior ministers to come back to the Labour front bench

'Good God, no!'

Former Minister **Anna Soubry** when asked if Tory members should set party policy

'The Master'

How **George Osborne** and **David Cameron** referred to Tony Blair

'I don't need another country home'

Disgraced minister **Liam Fox** explains why he doesn't need to share a grace and favour stately home with Boris Johnson

'I want trains that go forwards not backwards'

Tory minister **Chris Grayling** shows why he is transport minister

'We're selling coffee to Brazil, sparkling wine to France and naan bread to India'

Environment secretary **Andrea Leadsom** encourages exports

'France needs high quality, innovative British jams and marmalades'

The Department of Trade tweets



Tory PR firm made Al-Qaida videos in Iraq for US spooks

THE US military paid a British PR firm over half a billion dollars in the wake of the 2003 Iraq invasion to create fake terrorist videos in a covert operation.

The company Bell Pottinger, founded by Timothy Bell, was hired by the US military to orchestrate a huge £412 million "covert" propaganda campaign in Iraq after the 2003 invasion.

Staff from Bell's agency were based in Baghdad to disseminate pro-coalition material across the airwaves.

It was a secretive operation.

Its work included scripting soap operas and providing footage for local Arabic news networks. It also involved distributing insurgent videos used to track the individuals who watched them.

The details of one of the firm's biggest contracts emerged in US defence and procurement documents.

One video editor, Martin Wells, said the work involved the creation of fake Al-Qaida propaganda videos that were dropped by US forces when they raided targets. "We need to make this style of

LORD BELL

Bell was Margaret Thatcher's PR guru

1 After serving as chairman of the advertising firm Saatchi & Saatchi, Bell founded his own agency, Bell Pottinger Group. Tony Blair nominated him for a peerage in 1998

2 Clients have included the Pinochet Foundation. The Saudi government hired Bell during an investigation into arms deal bribes. Bell advises the Bahraini government and Asma al-Assad, the Syrian president's wife.



video and we've got to use Al-Qaida's footage," Wells was told. "We need it to be 10 minutes long, and it needs to be in this file format, and we need to encode it in this manner."

These could subsequently be tracked when they were played on a computer. It would relay the viewers' IP address back to a secure military site.

Initially the agency's work was to encourage a high turnout in elections with advertising campaigns and public information bulletins.

But it was also involved in a secret propaganda campaign to promote the occupation's agenda across the media.

The Bell Pottinger team produced news bulletins for local Arabic stations. The production values were "made to look like it was Arabic".

It was part of an industrial information campaign. The company was employing almost 300 British and Iraqi staff at one point.

There were more than 50,000 civilian deaths in the country from 2007 to 2011.

THE PAPERS like to write inside stories about politicians to show access. So the Times newspaper wrote, "Barack Obama complimented the prime minister on the number of female advisers and cabinet ministers in her team. 'Great gender balance,' he told Mrs May when she arrived with her entourage at the White House." May has never visited the White House.

Never been

FOR THE second year running, Lord David Blunkett has told how gutted he is that Labour members voted overwhelmingly for Jeremy Corbyn to lead "the party I love". Last week he wrote that he was "in despair at this catastrophe". Not so much despair that he turned down getting paid to write about it in the Daily Mail.

Free gin is nothing to virtual grouse at

THE TORY party conference brings many pleasures. A fringe event called "From Poverty to Prosperity" was cancelled before the conference even kicked off.

But happily the Spectator magazine event went ahead.

The flyer for "Solving Poverty the Conservative Way" points out that "Gin and Tonics will be served".

Behind the steel barriers you can try your hand at grouse shooting, without harming a

feather on their heads.

A virtual rifle range, courtesy of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation was available for delegates.

Though the "conservation" in the name may be just for show.

For the more environmentally concerned Tories there was the chance to harvest potatoes in virtual reality.

As pictured, this special treat was sponsored by McDonalds.

A virtual farmer

More corruption in Lawrence murder

DUWAYNE Brooks, the key witness to the murder of Stephen Lawrence said he felt "betrayed" by Scotland Yard after discovering that it had rejected a witness protection request for him made by the officer in charge of the investigation.

Duwayne was with Stephen when he was killed by a racist gang in southeast London in 1993.

He has obtained police records that reveal that Detective Superintendent Bill Mellish urged colleagues in 1996 to protect him as he was preparing

to give evidence in a private prosecution by Lawrence's family of the youths accused of the murder.

Mellish wrote that the accused youths were "proven violent racists who are fully aware of the subject's [Brooks's] identity and appearance, his associates and his haunts. We have serious concerns for his safety and wellbeing."

The application was refused. Duwayne, who was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, waited fearfully for weeks before the private prosecution opened at the Old Bailey.

Ooh, candidate has a Porsche

A **TORY** council candidate bragged that locals should vote for him because he had appeared on game shows and won a Porsche in a competition.

In a letter to voters ahead of a by-election for North Norfolk District Council, Andrew Livsey wrote, "I once won a Porsche 911 Car in a beer competition beating 17,000 others!"

"I have climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. I have appeared on game shows. Most notably 'Blind Date', 'Best of Blind Date', and 'Crystal Maze'."

In the byelection—as in the game shows—he didn't win.

Inverquhar Castle

SNP MP tries to buy a castle

SNP MP **Chris Law** is at the centre of an embezzlement investigation but is set to buy the £620,000 Inverquhar Castle. He was detained by police last week and quizzed over alleged financial irregularities. Law is the third SNP MP caught up in police investigations into financial irregularities.

Natalie McGarry was charged with embezzlement and breach of trust. Meanwhile, police are investigating property deals carried out on behalf of Edinburgh MP Michelle Thomson.

Child abuse inquiry chaos

THE PUBLIC inquiry into child sex abuse is in chaos after losing two lawyers.

The £100 million probe has been beset by problems from the start.

The most senior lawyer working for the inquiry, QC Ben Emmerson, has been suspended.

And it emerged a second lawyer, junior counsel Elizabeth Prochaska, quit after 15 months. The sprawling inquiry has lost three chairs after being set up by Theresa May.

Get in touch with Socialist Worker



Email reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

Facebook "Socialist Worker (Britain)"

Twitter @socialistworker



Newsdesk 020 7840 5656
Circulation 020 7840 5601



Write to Socialist Worker
PO Box 71327
London SE11 9BW

Leeds anti-racists slam Reeves' phoney concerns

by DAVE SEWELL

PEOPLE IN Leeds have spoken out against their Labour MP Rachel Reeves. She made a scaremongering speech over immigration at Labour Party conference last week.

At a fringe meeting she said parts of her constituency were “like a tinderbox” because of people’s “concerns” about immigration.

Reeves warned of “bubbling tensions” that “could explode”. This echoed racist Tory Enoch Powell’s notorious 1968 speech in which he warned about immigration and said he could see “the River Tiber foaming with much blood”.

Campaigner and constituent Joe Hughes was “disgusted” by Reeves’ speech. “I felt her comments had a bit of ‘rivers of blood’ about them,” he told Socialist Worker. “She’s pouring fuel on the fire and that’s wrong.”

Attacks

Reeves referred to suspected racist attacks since the European Union (EU) referendum, including an assault on a Polish man in the Armley area of Leeds last month.

Hundreds attended a Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) rally in its aftermath, including Armley Labour councillor Alison Lowe.

She told Socialist Worker, “I have every respect for Rachel. I do, however, disagree with her comments on immigration and on Leeds West in particular.

“This is generally a tolerant and welcoming society.

“Of course there are also ignorant and racist views held by a minority, as there are in every part of Britain.”

That’s not to say the attacks took place in a vacuum.

Joe said, “These are some of the most deprived areas of the



STAND UP To Racism Leeds marching on Leeds Pride

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

country—the Conservatives have sucked money out of them.

“There are a lot of shops closing. People have no money, they can’t get jobs. They want someone to blame, and they can see immigrants.

“There are long waiting lists for council housing, so when someone sees an immigrant get a house they assume they’ve jumped the queue.

“But they’ve been in the queue as long as anyone else.”

Alison agreed. “The biggest issue is poverty

and deprivation exacerbated by government cuts, benefit changes, low pay and the rising cost of living,” she said.

Outrageously, Reeves said she avoided council estates when campaigning because she “didn’t want to remind them that Labour was not on their side” on immigration.

Alison said, “Labour

needs to establish itself as an effective opposition to the Tory policy of unending austerity.

“We need to become leaders within our communities, challenging ignorance and hate.

“We need to counter negative media and Ukip lies with positive messages of immigration. We need to invest in our communities so that people do not feel abandoned and betrayed.”

Joe added, “Reeves should be using her position as an MP to stand up to the Conservatives—not to point the finger at immigrants.”

The Stand Up To Racism conference is on Saturday 8 October at Friends Meeting House in Euston, central London. Details at bit.ly/2bSRYoh



Rachel Reeves

SOCIALIST WORKER APPEAL TO RAISE £125,000

This week we’ll be reporting from the Stand Up to Racism conference. Socialist Worker is proud of its principled contribution to the fight against racism. From its coverage of the Anti-Nazi League to Stand Up to UKIP and the recent convoys for Calais, the paper has always been at the heart of the anti-racist movement in Britain. The appeal now stands at £50,963. Please donate what you can to support us in this vital work.

To donate go to www.socialistworker.co.uk/appeal
Call 020 7840 5620 or send a cheque, payable to ‘SW Appeal’ to PO Box 71327, London SE11 9BW

I SUPPORT THE APPEAL BECAUSE...

“Socialist Worker has the courage to report stories that our local and mainstream media are not willing to, as it goes against the status quo.

“As one of the Rotherham 12 I respect and admire Socialist Worker for reporting on our campaign when other papers refuse to.”

Abrar Javid one of the Rotherham 12, on trial after protesting against Britain First



FRANCE

‘Jungle’ to be demolished

THE “JUNGLE” shantytown of refugees in Calais is to be demolished “in the next few weeks”, French prime minister Manuel Valls vowed last Sunday.

Around 10,000 people—including over 1,000 unaccompanied children—are stuck in poverty there because Britain won’t let them cross the border.

French police used water cannon on protesting migrants and supporters in Calais last Saturday.

The protesters opposed the demolition plan—and the new wall being built by the Tories.

Banned

The authorities banned the demonstration, and cops blocked four coachloads of migrants and activists from Paris.

Valls aims to deport some of the migrants in Calais, and scatter the majority into special asylum centres around France.

But mayors in villages earmarked to host them are resisting the plan. The centre right Republicans and fascist Front National have also called protests.

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) joint secretary Weyman Bennett called the demolition “an insult to the process of asylum”.

He told Socialist Worker, “We should let all the refugees in the ‘jungle’ into Britain.”

ACTIVISTS’ DIARY

- **Saturday 8 October**
Stand Up To Racism Conference
- **Friday 14 October**
Day of action for the Dubs amendment. Local events to get refugee children into Britain
- **Saturday 15 October**
help refugee children, protest in Parliament Square, London, 2pm
- **November**
Islamophobia Awareness Month with Mend, MAB and other groups
- **December**
Calais winter appeal
- **Saturday 18 March 2017**
national demonstrations against racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia and to welcome migrants and refugees
- For more go to standuptoracism.org.uk



May cannot unite a Tory party that's deeply split over Brexit

THERESA MAY laid out her plan for Brexit on Sunday—at her first Tory party conference as prime minister.

Forced to choose between clamping down on immigration and staying in the European Union (EU) single market, May made clear she was going to prioritise immigration.

She also revealed that she would trigger Article 50—which begins the formal process of leaving the EU—by the end of March next year.

“We are not leaving the European Union only to give up control of immigration again,” she said.

In a blow to those hoping to water down the referendum result, May said parliament would get no veto.

This set her at odds with many in her own party. Around 80 Tory MPs attended a pro-EU fringe meeting vowing to be the “resistance” to any “hard Brexit”.

Ditching

Former ministers Nicky Morgan and Stephen Dorrell were among those who publicly warned against ditching the single market.

Even the man who is effectively May's deputy, chancellor Philip Hammond, hinted that he didn't share her priorities.

“There is an implicit term of the mandate we received from the British people,” he said on Saturday. “They do not want to see the economy suffer.”

Compare that to the line from Brexit minister David Davis that “the clear message from the referendum is this—we must be able to control immigration”.

The single market, enforced by the European Court of Justice, helps businesses exploit workers on a Europe-wide level.

Its rules block nationalisations and has been used to ban strikes.

Socialists should not defend it.

Bosses do—particularly during a fragile and limited economic recovery—and that puts

pressure on the Tories to uphold it.

It's a problem for May that the right's focus on attacking immigration means she can't do that.

So in reality her Brexit plan, seeking to give “some certainty to businesses and investors”, is far from “hard”.

May is to implement the EU's Article 50 before making any changes to British law.

Then her Great Repeal Bill will overturn the 1972 act that saw Britain join the European Economic Community (EEC). But it will carry over all measures that have passed from EU into British law since then.

Scaremongering

While Tories are not to be trusted, May pledged not to tear up regulations on workers' rights, contrary to much of the Remain campaign's scaremongering.

Even on immigration the Tories are walking a tightrope.

There has been widespread horror at the idea of EU migrants in Britain being kicked out.

Davis promised “to protect the rights of EU citizens here so long as Britons in Europe are treated the same way”. “That's something I am absolutely sure we will be able to agree,” he said.

Yet he also vowed to “bring the numbers down”. It's not possible to do both—restricting the numbers can only be done through restricting migrants' rights.

Despite May's attempt to put a brave face on it, Brexit is a challenge that the British establishment didn't want and the Tory party can't agree on.

Their divisions can help us fight against discrimination and scapegoating of migrants.

At present the Brexit debate is dominated by right wing voices.

It is crucial the left puts forward its own anti-racist, pro-worker, anti-capitalist demands—and fights for them.

PHILIP HAMMOND and Theresa May don't share the same priorities on a Brexit deal

Tories backtrack on deficit but are still out to line the bosses' pockets

CHANCELLOR Philip Hammond confirmed a “reset” of Tory economic policy in his speech on Monday, ditching any timetable for eliminating Britain's deficit.

His predecessor George Osborne had pledged to do this by 2020—and consistently missed his own targets.

Hammond defended Osborne's priorities as “the right ones for that time” but said, “When times change, we must change with them”.

That means more “flexible and pragmatic” austerity with more investment.

But the Tories want to ensure that any let up on spending cuts doesn't mean easing the pain for us, but giving more free cash to their pals.

Giveaways to be unveiled in Hammond's first Autumn Statement on 23 November include more funding for transport and technology—great news for bosses.

He denied this marked the end of the “age of austerity”. And



The Tories are ploughing money into vanity projects such as Crossrail

on top of any new cuts, some of Osborne's are still set to come, including a new bedroom tax on pensioners' benefits from 2018.

But austerity has been messier than Osborne reckoned.

Work and pensions secretary Damian Green last week announced that sick and disabled benefit claimants with long term conditions will only be tested

once to see if they are “fit for work”. This will be a huge relief for thousands of people who previously faced repeated tests—and the threat of losing their benefits.

But Green's motives may have more to do with the hated tests costing more to carry out than they saved and causing chaos for private contractors.

Tories show their nasty side with housing policy

PLANS UNVEILED by the Tories to boost housing won't come close to solving the crisis of a lack of affordable homes.

Chancellor Philip Hammond announced that he would lend £3 billion to building firms to encourage house building.

House building in Britain has fallen to its lowest peace time rate since the 1920s.

All Hammond's plan will mean is a few more developments—mostly luxury ones—geared towards making profits.

The Tories' real views were summed up by housing minister Gavin Barwell, who told a fringe meeting at the Tory conference that council housing “increases inequality”.

But housing campaigners scored a victory at Labour conference, passing a motion committing the party to oppose the Housing and Planning Act and to “a massive council house building programme”.

But action is needed now to halt the Tories' Housing Act that will be implemented from April next year. It will see central government levy a charge on local authorities for a proportion of the value of their housing stock, regardless of whether it has been sold off or not.



The rich will profit from Tory housing policy

This will pressure them to sell it. Great damage will have been done by the time of the next scheduled general election in 2020.

Labour-led councils must take the initiative to defy the act. Chair of Defend Council

Housing Eileen Short told Socialist Worker, “Demands for council housing are back at the centre of the fight against austerity and the housing crisis. “It's also a result of the deep political shift which is going on in society and the persistent campaigning which won't let council housing go.”

Alistair Farrow

Axe the Housing Act is holding a summit of councillors, tenants and campaigners opposed to the Housing and Planning Act on 22 October at Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD. Go to bit.ly/2dmyqKY

Child poverty rising rapidly

THE NUMBER of children living in poverty soared by 250,000 in just one year under the Conservative-led coalition government.

The Daily Mirror newspaper obtained HM Revenue and Customs figures.

These show the number of children living in low-income families rose from 2.5 million to 2.75 million between 2013 and 2014.

The HMRC report defined children



Child poverty is rising

in low-income households as those from families in receipt of out-of-work benefits or those in receipt of tax credits with an income of less than 60 percent of the

national average.

Imran Hussein, director of policy for the Child Poverty Action Group, said, “Child poverty figures are the best measure we have for whether we really are ‘all in it together’.

“What's clear from these grim figures is that more and more children are being left behind in poverty, missing out on the childhoods and life chances other kids take for granted.”

Families poorer than in 2008

SIX MILLION working families on low incomes are poorer than they were eight years ago due to attacks on pay and soaring costs housing and childcare.

A study by the Resolution Foundation

found millions of families needed welfare top-ups to “keep their heads above water”.

According to the study a 28 year old couple with a baby, with one parent on low pay, were £760

worse off in 2016 compared with 2008.

When the couple are older, aged 35, with two children and both are working full time on a medium and low wage, they are still £530 poorer.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

TROOPS OFF THE LEASH TO INFLICT MORE BRUTALITY

THERESA MAY pledged this week to “put an end to the industry of vexatious claims” against soldiers under human rights law.

Perhaps she was talking about cases such as the killing of Baha Mousa. British soldiers raided an Iraqi hotel and arrested Baha, a receptionist there, in September 2003. Within 36 hours he was dead.

The “violent and cowardly” assaults by a “large number” of soldiers inflicted 93 injuries, an inquiry later found. These included a broken nose and fractured ribs.

British troops kept detainees hooded, handcuffed and in “stress positions”.

Soldiers urinated on detainees, scalded them with boiling water, denied them food and drink in extreme heat, kicked and punched them, and deprived them of sleep.

The inquiry called it an “appalling episode of serious, gratuitous violence”—and made clear that it wasn't an isolated incident.

No soldiers were convicted for Baha Mousa's death. What justice Justice Ronald McKinnon called “a more or less obvious closing of

ranks” limited the evidence.

But the inquiry did force the government to set up the Iraq Historic Allegations team.

As of June it still had 1,492 accusations to look into, including 237 alleged unlawful killings.

The Tory press make a lot of those allegations that have been rejected. The Daily Telegraph newspaper whined that those accused “face months or even years of worry” and it “costs the taxpayer millions of pounds”.

Their favourite example is the al-Sweady inquiry—named after an Iraqi teenager killed by British forces.

It rejected accusations that soldiers murdered Iraqis and

“May's licence to torture reassures soldiers ‘they are able to do what is necessary’”

mutilated their bodies after a battle.

What tends to be forgotten is that the inquiry found that troops abused prisoners and breached the Geneva Convention. The European Convention of Human Rights bans such abuses, yet states are allowed to opt out.

New Labour did this in 2005 so that it could put terrorism suspects, found guilty of no crime, under house arrest.

More recent exceptions or “derogations” come from France to allow its repressive state of emergency, and Turkey for the clampdown that has followed July's failed coup.

May is turning the exception into the rule with a “presumption to derogate” at times of war.

That's worth bearing in mind when looking for a solution to the carnage in Syria (see page 20).

May's licence to torture is, in her own words, a way of reassuring soldiers “that they are able to do what is necessary”.

Behind the waffle about “soft power” and “British values”, our rulers are driven to project their influence worldwide.

Brutality isn't incidental—it's essential.

LABOUR'S RACISM RUSE

ACTIVIST JACKIE Walker was removed as the vice chair of Labour left group Momentum on Monday.

She was suspended from the Labour Party last week for comments she made on antisemitism and the Holocaust.

Speaking in a training event on antisemitism, Walker questioned why Holocaust Memorial Day didn't also focus on other genocides—when it does.

She also said she hadn't found a definition of antisemitism that she

could “work with”.

What she said was foolish and incorrect. But she isn't antisemitic and shouldn't be disciplined.

There's a terrible double standard at work. In the same week, Labour MP Rachel Reeves implied that immigration could lead to race riots (see page 3).

Her speech channelled Tory racist Enoch Powell's infamous “rivers of blood” speech in 1968.

Powell was sacked from the Tory shadow cabinet. No one is calling for Reeves' expulsion.

Tuesday marked the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street (see pages 10&11).

Tens of thousands of working class people, including Communist anti-fascists, Jewish people and Irish migrants, united to stop Nazi Blackshirts marching through London's east end.

Labour Party leaders had argued for people to stay indoors.

Those who attack the left for alleged antisemitism but pander to anti-migrant racism are no anti-racists.

International Socialism 152

Martin Empson on food, agriculture and climate change

Charlie Kimber on why did Britain vote Leave?

Talat Ahmed on colonial troops in the First World War

Out now, £5. isj.org.uk
0207 840 5640



ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



Deutsche Bank—the profit unarmed

DEUTSCHE BANK has symbolised German capitalism ever since its foundation in 1870, on the eve of Germany's unification. When Rudolf Hilferding wrote his classic Marxist study *Finance Capital* (1910), portraying the fusion of big investment banks with industrial firms, he might have had Deutsche Bank in mind.

In recent decades, Deutsche seemed to be ahead of the rest of the pack of European banks. Its old rival Dresdner Bank disappeared. And it sought to challenge the dominance of global investment banking by Wall Street giants such as Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan.

Now Deutsche is in trouble. Its share price has fallen by more than 50 percent this year. It reached a 33-year low of £8.64 on Thursday of last week. Before the crash of 2007-8 it was around £87.

Last month it emerged that the US government is demanding an £11 billion fine for Deutsche's alleged mis-selling of mortgage-backed securities in the mid-2000s.

The fine is only a little less than the bank's stock market value. But Deutsche's woes are in a much larger sense a sign that many of the problems involved in the crash remain unresolved.

European governments fondly subscribe to the myth that the misbehaviour of Anglo-American banks caused the crash—and that European banks were innocent victims.

This is true in the sense that German banks in particular often naively bought up dodgy mortgage-backed securities and other kinds of credit derivatives from their unscrupulous US counterparts.

But they helped to feed the financial bubble in the eurozone by flooding Ireland and southern Europe with cheap loans. The so-called eurozone crisis was really the way in which north European governments rescued their banks.

States such as Greece were forced to implement brutal austerity programmes as a condition of getting loans to repay the northern banks.

Survive

This bailout allowed European banks to survive without the much tougher restructuring that US and British governments forced on their banking systems. Only last week Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank, complained that the eurozone has too many banks.

Then we should throw in the peculiarity of banks as a form of capitalist enterprise. They make their profits by lending money. But their loans—often described as bank assets—are usually vastly larger than their capital, or equity.

Banks are thus inherently bankrupt, and survive only as long as investors and depositors don't ask for their money back. Banking is a confidence trick.

In 2015 Deutsche's total assets were £1.42 trillion and its total equity £54.7 billion.

It's a big bank with plenty of retail deposits so normally the markets wouldn't be too worried. But there's been a lot of interest in Deutsche's £25.1 billion of so-called "level 3 assets". These are probably worthless leftovers of the bubble, but if this were acknowledged it could wipe out up to half of Deutsche's capital.

The legacy of the crash plays another part in Deutsche's woes. Banking has become less profitable, thanks to a sluggish world economy, tighter regulation, and the ultra-low interest rates imposed by central banks to keep the show on the road. Deutsche's return on equity next year is projected at less than 3 percent. Its main rival Commerzbank last week announced a 20 percent cut in its workforce to boost profits.

Finally, the politics is messy. German chancellor Angela Merkel can't afford to let her country's biggest bank go to the wall. But everyone hates bankers, so it would be hard for her to rescue Deutsche with federal elections coming next year.

Inter-capitalist rivalries exacerbate the situation. Other banks have been able to negotiate down their US fines, but will the US government be willing to do this amid a tight presidential election?

The US is in any case unlikely to be too gentle to a European bank after Brussels imposed a whopping bill for back taxes on Apple.

None of this implies that we're heading for another crash. But Deutsche's plight underlines the fragility of global capitalism nine years after the financial crisis broke out.



ON THE march in Birmingham last weekend

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Thousands protest to say no to Tory austerity and racism

by TOMÁŠ TENGEY-EVANS

ANGER AGAINST austerity and racism was on show in Birmingham last Sunday as thousands joined a demonstration against the Tory Party conference.

Some 10,000 people took part in the march organised by the People's Assembly and Midlands TUC.

Dawn, a Unite union member, told Socialist Worker why she joined the march. "This is about the Tories' austerity—we're here to show Theresa May that we won't take their policies."

"Lots of people want an alternative."

Philip added, "I didn't know this was going on, but I've joined it because I feel so strongly about what the Tories are doing."

Workers

The demonstration had a strong contingent of students and young workers. Camilla, a school student, told Socialist Worker, "As a student I can see what the Tories are doing to education with underfunding."

"They're decreasing funding for courses such as drama and only focusing on maths and science."

Many were furious with the Tories' immigration policy that sees refugees trapped at Britain's border in Calais.

Joe, a Unison union

member from Portsmouth, told Socialist Worker, "The main issue for me is the refugee crisis. We've got a duty to help refugees."

"We play a role in the world that helped cause it but aren't doing anything about it."

Mrisho, a student at the University of West London, has become involved in the new Stand Up To Racism society.

He told Socialist Worker, "Since coming from Tanzania four years

ago, I've faced racism."

"I was racially profiled when I went to the mall and the fact that I am a Muslim means I'm

pushed to one side for wearing traditional clothes."

Shouts of "Tories out now" rang out as the march made its way through Birmingham.

But for some people the focus was on ousting the Tories at the next general election rather than resistance now.

Pete Goulden, West Midlands secretary of the FBU firefighters' union, told Socialist Worker, "We've lost 500 firefighters in the region alone and that's beginning to have an impact on public safety."

"All we can try and do is slow that down, we can't stop it now. To stop it we need a general election and get Jeremy Corbyn elected."

Boost

Corbyn's re-election as Labour leader had given many on the march a boost. But people were also clear that Corbyn will still face challenges from the right—inside and outside the Labour Party.

Aysha, who's part of the Labour left group Momentum in Bolton, told Socialist Worker, "We've got to get out there and get more people to support Corbyn."

Building a mass movement to stop the Tories' attacks can beat them.

Meanwhile the Tories remain deeply divided over how to deal with Brexit.

Debating the fightback

SOME 250 people joined a Unite the Resistance (UtR) meeting at the end of the protest to discuss how the unions can take the fight to the Tories.

Durham teaching assistant (TA) Megan Charlton spoke about the TAs' fight (see page 18) against their Labour council slashing pay by 23 percent—and got a standing ovation.

More than £300 was collected for the TAs. Megan said she wanted to resist the pay attack every step of the way.

The meeting also heard

from junior doctor Megan Parsons on how their dispute with the Tory government had been hugely politicised.

She explained how some junior doctors are now taking up wider questions of tackling austerity and racism.

Speakers also included Kumaran Bose, a victimised food worker at Samworth Brothers factory in Leicester, Sean Vernell from UtR and Bfawu bakers' union president Ian Hodson.

People's Assembly conference report page 19



A protester in Birmingham

Labour gets members mobilised in school fight

Labour's day of action against Tory grammar schools got its activists out on the streets, reports Nick Clark

LABOUR PARTY members and others took to the streets for a national day of campaigning against grammar schools last Saturday.

They held rallies, campaign stalls, and leafleting and canvassing sessions in towns and cities across England.

It came after Corbyn and shadow education secretary Angela Rayner called on party members to join the campaign at Labour's conference last week. The NUT teachers' union also held over 70 campaign stalls on the day.

People crowded around a campaign stall in Newcastle city centre when Corbyn paid a visit. Rayner joined campaigners in Manchester's Piccadilly Gardens.

In Tooting, south London, campaigners dressed up in gowns, dunces' caps and mortar boards. Ian, a Labour Party member in Battersea, was at the stall.

He told Socialist Worker, "We've had lots of people taking leaflets and a shedload of people have signed the petition."

Ian added that Corbyn's re-election as leader, and the Labour left group Momentum, had encouraged party members to become active.

He said, "People from Momentum have been getting involved in the Constituency Labour Party and getting people out."

Radicalising

He added, "Corbyn has definitely had a radicalising effect. There's still some hostility towards Corbyn, but I'm hoping that we can get down to the real business of taking on the Tories."

Carole, a teacher who joined Labour in June, said she was hopeful that campaigning on the streets would be the way forward for Labour.

"I feel good every time we go out—like we've been doing something worthwhile," she said.

"The NUT has been out leafleting as well. That's the good thing about Corbyn's leadership—people

BACK STORY

Labour Party members across England took part in a day of action against grammar schools last Saturday

- The call was made by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and shadow education secretary Angela Rayner
- The NUT teachers' union also held stalls
- It showed how Labour's mass membership could be mobilised
- This is the best way to build on Corbyn's victory

inside and outside Labour can work together on issues like this without being divided."

The day of action was a welcome sign that Labour's new mass membership can be mobilised in campaigns against the Tory government.

Internal

There is a temptation among some Labour left wingers to focus their activities on internal battles. The left was defeated in key votes at Labour conference last week.

At a fringe meeting many left activists argued that the key task was to win support for left delegates and rule changes at next year's conference.

One Labour member suggested this was more important than building a movement against the Tories. "If we don't democratise the party, no social movement will save us," he told the meeting.

Yet the defeats for the left at conference show the right still control many of Labour's structures—and will use them to beat back the left.

Attempts to defeat them through those structures take a lot of time and energy.

Building where the left is strongest—as part of a movement—is the best way to build on Corbyn's victory.

The day of action last Saturday was a good start.



LABOUR PARTY members campaigning in Tooting in south London

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Right wing MPs plan shadow cabinet comeback—but only on their terms

JEREMY CORBYN was under pressure this week to accept a compromise deal on shadow cabinet elections with those who tried to oust him.

Corbyn's resounding reelection as leader last month means some of those shadow ministers who resigned in June want to return to the fold.

Others have said they won't come back unless there are shadow cabinet elections confined to the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP).

They want to fill the shadow cabinet with MPs who could force him to climb down further over issues such as Trident or nuclear power.

Some said they would only join the shadow cabinet if John McDonnell is axed as shadow chancellor. Sources "close to Corbyn" ruled this out.

A spokesperson for Corbyn said a "not insignificant" number of shadow ministers would return this week, including "surprising names".

Corbyn was re-elected as Labour leader with 62 percent of the vote—more

than his first victory last year.

But the pressure to unite the party could see him make concessions to the right. He was in talks with chief Labour whip Rosie Winterton and PLP chair John Cryer this week.

He has indicated he would appoint MPs who stayed loyal to him, including many of those who stepped in during the mass shadow cabinet resignations.

In his speech to Labour conference last week, Corbyn said those MPs "all deserve the respect and gratitude of our party and movement".

But deputy leader Tom Watson demands that a majority of shadow cabinet positions are elected by the PLP.

Corbyn and the left have lost influence on Labour's national executive committee, after conference gave the leaders of Scottish and Welsh Labour the right to appoint representatives.

Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale, who has said Corbyn is "not competent" to be Labour leader, appointed herself.

Welsh Labour leader Carwyn Jones appointed Welsh Assembly

Member Alun Davies, who has called Corbyn's leadership "an absolute electoral disaster".

The moves to keep undermining Corbyn show the Labour right won't accept defeat. Trying to unite with them will only mean backing down on key policies.

It would strengthen those who want to drag Labour back to the days before Corbyn's leadership.



COLOMBIA

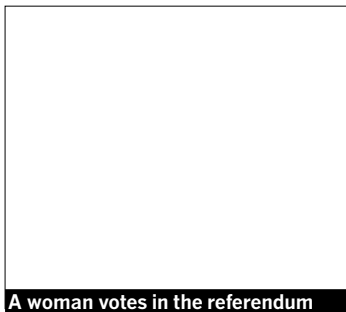
Narrow vote rejects Farc peace deal

IN A shock result Colombians narrowly voted against a peace deal between the government and guerrilla group Farc last Sunday.

The result was 50.2 percent for no and 49.8 percent yes. This was despite consensus from polls, the media and even politicians campaigning for a no vote that yes would comfortably win.

Hard right wing former president Alvaro Uribe led the campaign against the deal, saying it gave too many concessions to Farc.

In particular it was to give Farc leaders immunity from jail for their role in killings and kidnappings. Yet Farc's violence started as



A woman votes in the referendum

a response to the violence of Colombia's state and its paramilitary allies. Uribe's presidency was spent getting these right wingers immunity.

Turnout was low, at below 38 percent. This partly reflects a success by Uribe and others to argue that rejecting the deal would not mean a return to war but merely new negotiations.

The regions most affected by the conflict saw clear Yes votes.

A ceasefire remains in place. President Juan Manuel Santos and Farc leader Rodrigo "Timochenko" Londono have vowed to continue seeking an end to the decades-old conflict.

More reports on Socialist Worker online

● Shimon Peres—war criminal and confidence trickster bit.ly/2dUEFYp

● Protests against tuition fee hike sweep South African university campuses bit.ly/2dpylAa

www.socialistworker.co.uk

Protesters won't accept whitewash after killings

by ALISTAIR FARROW

PROTESTS TOOK place across the US over the weekend as the police's killing spree continued apace.

Police shot a black man in Los Angeles last Saturday as he was running away from them, apparently with his hands in the air. They said they stopped his car because its number plates were paper.

Carnell Snell Jnr's sister said, "The cops came and shot my brother." Police claim to have found a handgun near the scene but other accounts suggest Carnell was unarmed.

"We don't want to see a cover-up. We don't want to see a whitewash," said Earl Ofari Hutchinson of the Los Angeles Urban Policy Roundtable.

Two other people in Southern California have been killed since Tuesday of last week, one of whom was holding a vape pen his police killers say they mistook for a gun.

Protests continued in LA throughout Sunday despite heavy policing, with activists marching on the governor's house.

Racist

Elsewhere in the US protesters demanded an end to police violence and racism. In Houston, Black Lives Matter activists demonstrated against a racist White Lives Matter protest on Saturday.

Protests also took place in Seattle—and Vancouver in Canada.

In Washington DC Donald Trump's new hotel had "Black Lives Matter" and "no justice, no peace" spray painted on it.

Research by the Pew Research Center shows that 40 percent of Americans support the Black Lives Matter movement. The figure

PROTESTERS IN Pasadena, Los Angeles, after Reginald Thomas died after contact with police last Friday

climbs to 60 percent among people under 30.

American Football player Colin Kaepernick has joined the protests by refusing to stand for the US national anthem before matches.

His protest has sparked a movement among sportspeople and celebrities taking similar action. Sales of his shirts are now the highest in the US.

In a recent interview he said, "Cops are getting paid leave for killing people. That's not right by

anyone's standards."

Criticising last week's presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump he said, "Both are proven liars and it almost seems like they're trying to debate who's less racist."

"You have to pick the lesser of two evils, but the end is still evil."

■ THE US prison strike which began on 9 September, on the 45th anniversary of the Attica prison riot, continues.

Some guards at the Holman facility in Alabama, one of the centres of the strike wave, have reportedly failed to attend work.

Organisers said this action is in solidarity with the strikes. Guards at the prison have previously raised concerns about conditions for prisoners.

Some unconfirmed reports say the strikes have spread further than the 45 facilities across 24 states that organisers initially hoped for.

HUNGARY

Racist propaganda falls short in anti-refugee referendum

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

HUNGARY'S RIGHT wing government failed to get a big enough turnout in last Sunday's referendum on stopping the European Union (EU) settling refugees in the country.

Turnout was below 50 percent, so the vote was not binding—but 98 percent of the 43 percent who voted backed the government.

Some opposition parties called for a boycott to not legitimise it and this has been successful.

The result is a welcome setback for the ruling racist populist Fidesz party, but the referendum has

whipped up racism. It will bolster the racist right and the fascist party Jobbik—the third largest party in parliament.

The government spent £42.5 million on pumping out racist propaganda and sent 4.1 million booklets to Hungarians.

Prime minister Viktor Orban had called the vote in protest at EU asylum plans, which include permanent quotas for distributing refugees based on member states' size and wealth. Orban whipped up racism against refugees partly to win back support he had lost to Jobbik.

Fidesz is against leaving the EU because it would hurt Hungarian

capitalism.

Orban's party doesn't challenge the EU on its austerity. Instead they channel anger against its free market policies in a racist direction.

The rise of the racist and fascist right in Hungary is a product of the country's profound social crisis.

In the 2000s the Hungarian middle class was encouraged to take out cheap mortgages on the Swiss franc and the euro.

But the financial crisis of 2008 smashed the middle class and fuelled support for Jobbik.

The right at first focused its racism against Jewish and Roma people.

But as the refugee crisis hit last summer, the ruling class also turned to Islamophobia and racism against refugees.

Orban's failure to achieve a clear-cut mandate from the referendum shows that there is a potential to push back against racism in Hungary.

The truth behind TA pay scam

I READ with interest your article on the Durham teaching assistants (TAs) (Socialist Worker, 28 September). The attack on our pay goes back to 2012.

"Single status" was meant to bring in equal pay. But the regrading system was not explained to most people.

One group of workers appealed their low grade of a 1 and were raised to a level 3.

However, to counteract this scores were reduced in other areas.

Durham's equality impact assessment stated only 16 percent of female staff would see a pay cut.

Why didn't they include TAs in this? And why did Unison union officials sign the document? They surely knew other areas did things differently.

Guidelines state that school and nursery staff are employed on a sessional basis or for 32.5 hours per week for 195 days per year.

Staff are currently paid the salary quoted at the time of job applications.

In 2012 TAs were issued with an hourly rate for the first time.

No one knew to question it at the time, but it allowed the council to now claim that TAs are paid for more hours than they work.

They now want to cut away some of our salary classed as "holiday pay" and reduce the annual rate given to us in black and white in 2012.

Sam

County Durham teaching assistant

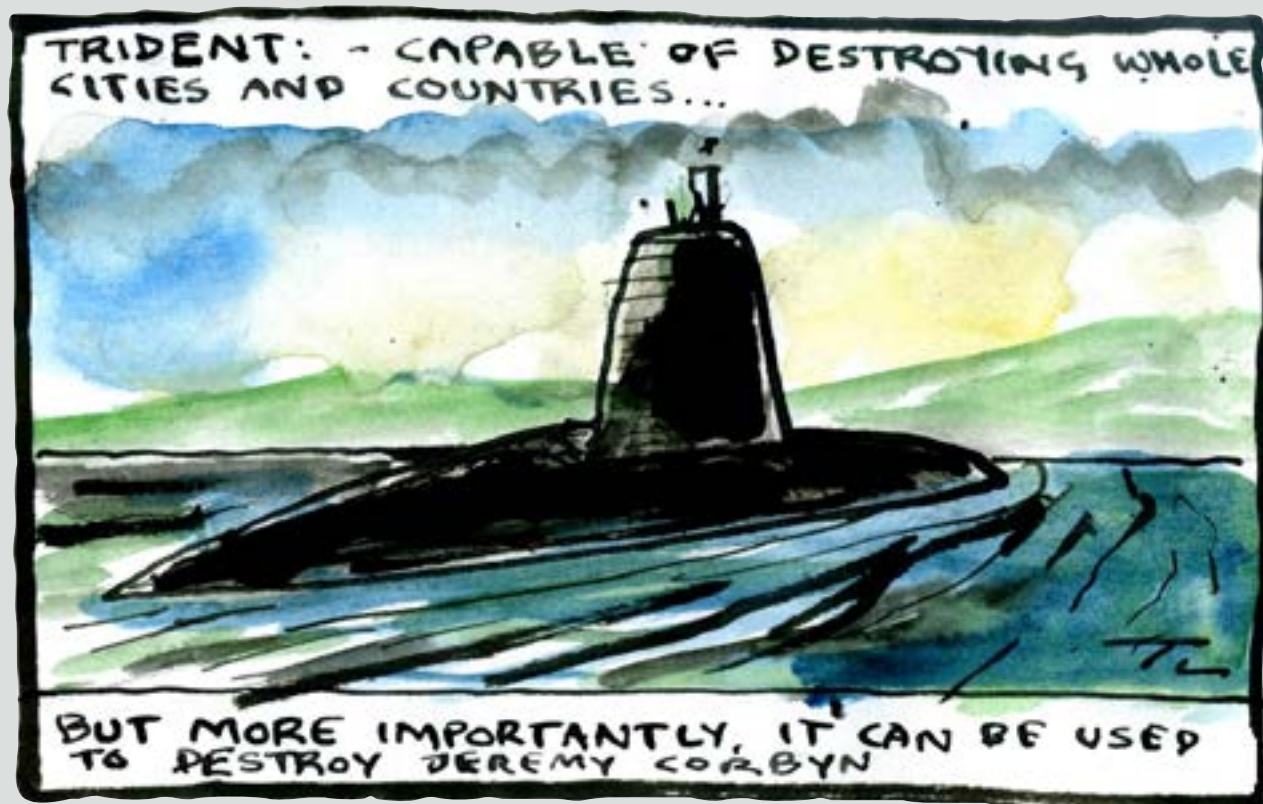


ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Celebrate Corbyn's win and build the fight against Tories

IN THE past when the Labour right has not been able to rely on the trade union bureaucracy to bolster its position, it has tacked left.

The best example of this is the period from 1917 through to 1920.

But the current parliamentary party is so right wing they either don't know how to talk left or can't bring themselves to.

It will be interesting to see how many of them decide to make the effort after Corbyn's victory.

John Newsinger
Portslade

● PLAID CYMRU leader Leanne Wood claims Labour's leadership election result will lead to "a decade of decline under Tory rule in Westminster". Wood has put

herself in the same camp as the Labour right.

The Blairites believed they were all-powerful. They thought that Tony Blair's rebranding of Labour won a landslide in 1997.

But Blair didn't win the election—the Tories were broken by the poll tax movement, their splits and sleaze. Wood should remember that.

Des Mannay
Cardiff

● THE US socialist Daniel De Leon once described bourgeois agents in the labour movement as "labour lieutenants of capitalism".

Labour Party shadow defence spokesperson Clive Lewis, an ex-army officer, announced his

support for Trident replacement and strong support for Nato.

I have the feeling he has taken De Leon a bit too literally.

John Curtis
Ipswich

● JEREMY CORBYN, a lifelong campaigner against nuclear weapons, has agreed not to challenge Labour's existing support for renewing Trident nuclear weapons.

This is a serious mistake and shows the limits of the Labour Party as a vehicle of radical change.

The Trident decision shows what the "broad church" of Labour means in practice.

Sasha Simic
north London

DWP employee deal means more pressure

THE PCS union negotiated a deal at the Department for Work and Pensions that means some people now have to work evenings and Saturdays.

I opted out because I didn't want to change my contract and I don't want to work late evenings and Saturdays.

Paying different amounts to people is discrimination.

Where I work the place is in chaos due to the high volumes of workload and

the lack of workers.

Priority is being given to those who call by phone, while it seems that people who write in are being neglected.

I and many other people who opted out are bracing ourselves for the bullying and harassment that will surely take place when areas are short of evening cover.

But we will hold firm.

Paul Hetherington
North Shields

Stop racist language school tests

MANY SCHOOLS have started collecting data on pupils' country of birth, nationality and level of English proficiency to fulfil requirements for the Department for Education.

At present, schools record if a pupil speaks English as an additional language (EAL) or not, worked out on the basis of the language spoken at home rather than

a pupil's acquisition of the English language.

Parents are asked "what language is spoken at home" rather than "what is the child's first language".

From September, schools

will assess each EAL pupil's "proficiency level". I am very concerned that the politics of immigration is hitting our schools.

Husain Akhtar
west London

Just a thought...

Private eye for public school

PRIVATE EYE poses as a neutral satirical magazine. But its attacks on the left indicate it too has an agenda.

Perhaps Private Eye is run by ex-public school boys to circulate gossip about their own establishment world.

Satire is useless when not objective and in the European Union referendum Private Eye did not equally criticise both sides. It backed one faction against the other.

Private Eye does have bias, and is not always favourable to the left.

Zekria Ibrahim
west London

Comeuppance for Allardyce

IT SEEMS poor old Sam Allardyce has been truly caught with his fingers in football's whopping money pie.

Not content with his £3 million a year England salary, Sam just couldn't resist that little bit more. Maybe he was just trying to make ends meet?

Pleading "entrapment" is a bit rich Sam, especially when you never had to be in the May Fair Hotel in the first place. It doesn't really come as a big surprise, the corruption within world football is just a sad reflection on the greed capitalism breeds.

Stevie Rae
Chester

BMA sold out fight for NHS

IT WAS extremely disappointing when the BMA called off the junior doctors' strikes.

But it was not overly surprising after the September wobble.

The timing with Jeremy Corbyn's win was morally bankrupt.

Andrew Duff
on Facebook

Lula eclipsed by right's plot?

SARA VIVACQUA is right to condemn the attack against Lula, leader of the Workers' Party leader in Brazil (Letters, 28 September).

However, uncritical support of Lula disguises the truth. While the right wing that attacked him for corruption were just as guilty, it's a mistake to say that he was not.

Heather Reynolds
Spalding

The march of Oswald Mosley’s British Union of Fascists was halted on 4 October 1936 by a working class revolt in east London. **Alistair Farrow** looks at what we can learn from anti-fascists who recall the mobilisation

EIGHTY YEARS ago this week tens of thousands of working class people stopped the British Union of Fascists (BUF) marching through Cable Street in east London.

They were up against the full force of the police who were determined to let the fascists march. But their mass mobilisation fought off repeated attempts by mounted police to force a route through the crowd.

Jack Dash was a member of the Communist Party. As part of a number of interviews held at the Jewish Museum in London, he described the scene. “There was one huge block of solid flesh that was determined that the BUF would not enter officially into the East End of London,” he said.

“We presented ourselves as a great huge block on every turning, linking up in arms, to stop the entrance into the East End of London.”

At the beginning of the Battle of Cable Street on 4 October, people congregated in Whitechapel from

‘We had armed ourselves with thousands of marbles so we threw them on the floor’

JACK DASH, COMMUNIST

12 noon. The BUF were rallying further down the road, working themselves up for a fight by listening to marching bands and speeches from leading fascists.

Charlie Goodman said, “Cable Street at that time was a bit different to what

Communist Party flyer for the protest in 1936



it is today, much narrower. There were also lots of little sheds where the seamen kept various things, old lorries and that sort of thing.

“When we got there, we saw that the seamen had already opened the sheds and pulled out some old lorries and turned them on their sides. At the windows of the tenements, all the women were standing watching what was going on.”

Tram drivers had also stopped their trams in Aldgate, blocking off the BUF’s intended route alongside the crowds of anti-fascists.

Police

Peter Platts observed events at the top of Cable Street. “I can remember seeing what I think was a Hillman open topped car coming down from Royal Mint Street,” he said.

“There was some senior police officers gathered at the junction with Leman Street. In the car was I believe a senior police officer and a senior member of the blackshirts, the fascists.”

As with fascist marches today, the police had attempted to clear a way for the fascists. Mounted police charged the crowds, but the mass of ordinary people stood their ground and blocked the cops.

Jack said, “The Cossacks came, the mounted police. We of the trade union movement with great experience of struggles... had armed ourselves with thousands of marbles in our pockets and so we threw them on the floor.

“The mounted police couldn’t

stand up and slipped over and down they went. Then it became a running fight with the crowd and the mounted police and the foot police.”

It was the mass mobilisation that meant people could fight off the police. “As the police made an attack on the barricades, the women just threw everything they had to hand, and I mean everything, down on the police,” Charlie said.

Amazed

“The police ran into some of the sheds for cover, leaving us totally amazed.

“A little bit later on, the women came down and started banging and kicking the sheds, and to our amazement, the police came out with their hands up in surrender. Who’d ever seen a policeman surrender?”

The police were forced to disperse the fascists towards Hyde Park in central London.

The Battle of Cable Street saw a mass turnout because Communists and trade unionists had been organising for weeks ahead of the planned march.

Jack explained, “Everything was prepared the week previous ... we whitewashed all the streets with the slogan, ‘They shall not pass’. This was to equate with the slogan being used during the Spanish civil war.”

The Battle of Cable Street took place as fascism was on the march across Europe.

The ruling class in many countries was turning to fascism to crush working class organisation and resistance. Only three years previously Adolf Hitler and the Nazis had taken power in Germany and smashed the left and working class opposition.

In Spain fascist forces under General Franco, backed by fascist Germany and Italy, were fighting a civil war against the Republican government.

“What was happening in Spain was paramount in the minds of the working class people of the East End as was the news of what was starting to happen to Jews in Germany,” said Charlie.

In Britain Oswald Mosley modelled



TO STOP the fascists marching workers fought pitched battles with the police

Picture: PA

BATTLE THAT BEAT THE BLACKSHIRTS

Anti-fascist triumph at Cable Street 80 years ago

the BUF on fascist parties from Europe and hoped to do the same as Hitler. Mosley was the BUF’s respectable face, but he was a Nazi through and through. Just two days after the Battle of Cable Street he was married in Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels’ home with Hitler as one of the guests.

His Blackshirt organisation was the street-fighting unit capable of breaking working class organisation.

Attacked

The Blackshirts marched through Jewish areas chanting, “The Yids, the Yids, we’ve got to get rid of the Yids” and attacked working class meetings.

Ubbby Cowan of the tailors’ union recalled, “The Blackshirts used to ride around in vans that ... had thickened glass and wire mesh on the outside.

“Mosley started holding meetings in Duckett Street, which was off Mile End Road, and we used to go along to these meetings and protest.”

With the support of sections of the ruling class, they were on the verge of becoming a mass organisation. They were courted by the rich and powerful and Mosley appeared alongside leading establishment figures in the media and on the radio, lending him credibility.

Tatler magazine devoted a page to an interview with him. The Daily Mail newspaper ran headlines including the infamous, “Hurrah for the Blackshirts!”

Workers from east London travelled

‘Blackshirts rode around in vans with thickened glass and wire mesh on the outside’

UBBY COWAN, TAILOR

to Berlin in 1932, a year before Hitler seized power, to take part in a workers alternative to the Olympics. They saw how German society was on the brink of catastrophe.

Albert Booth recalled how a football



Part of a mural on Cable Street today

A PROTEST to commemorate the 80th anniversary is set to take place on Sunday 9 October. Assemble at 12 noon in Altab Ali park in Whitechapel, east London. Speakers include Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and Cable Street veteran Max Levitas.

match was attacked by Hitler’s Brownshirts. “They swooped down on the Berlin stadium where we were playing football,” he said. “They took off their belts and bashed the people unmercifully, and little or nothing was done.

Arrest

“There was not a single arrest made of any Brownshirt that took part. The Communist Party were more anti-Social Democratic and concentrated much more on criticising the Social Democrats than they did really the fascists.

“The result that, because the working class movement was divided, the fascists were able to take advantage.”

But many members of the Communist Party and ordinary people in London rejected this approach and began to build a mass organisation capable of stopping the fascists in their tracks.

Appeals by Labour Party and Jewish People’s Council leaders to the home secretary to take action against the BUF were rejected.

These organisations then told their members to stay at home and ignore the fascists.

Jack said, “The leadership of the Labour Party, Herbert Morrison and the other leaders of the party was advising the members and the labour

movement as a whole to ignore the demonstrations, to ignore the march and stay indoors.”

But the rise of fascism across Europe showed ordinary people that they could not let the march go ahead.

A protest of 150,000 had drowned out Mosley two years previously at Hyde Park, where he spoke to 2,500 fascists. But the trade union and Labour Party leadership had branded anti-fascists as hooligans then, so activists didn’t look to them for leadership in 1936.

Support

Instead, they built support for the protest themselves. “We went round tackling all the shopkeepers in Whitechapel and they all chipped in,” said Ubbby.

“We got a lot of money from them to pay for all the printing that had to be done, the hiring of loudspeaker vans and halls and all the rest of it.”

After their defeat at Cable Street the BUF continued to hold meetings, to organise and gained significant

‘As police attacked the barricades, the women threw at them everything they had to hand’
CHARLIE GOODMAN

votes in the next year’s elections. But the Battle of Cable Street showed ordinary people that mass resistance had the potential to stop them.

When the BUF marched in Bermondsey a year after Cable Street, they were met again by mass anti-fascist protests.

The BUF’s defeat was drawn-out and hard-won by a mass working class movement. But, as Charlie said, “The 4 October was the experience of the fact that if people really believe that they can do a thing, they’ll do it.”

Interviews from the Jewish Museum’s archive. Go to jewishmuseum.org.uk



Oswald Mosley—who wanted to recreate Hitler and Mussolini’s fascist regimes in Britain—rallying in East London



“They shall not pass”—workers built barricades and daubed them with the slogan of anti-fascists in the Spanish Civil War

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

A Rebels Guide to Malcolm X
With author Antony Hamilton.
Wed 2 Nov, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),
E17 4QU

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

October 1917—the Russian Revolution

Wed 12 Oct, 6pm,
Belmont Cinema Cafe,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BARNSELEY

The US elections—is Hillary Clinton the lesser evil?

Thu 13 Oct, 7pm,
YMCA, Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BRADFORD

The Holocaust—why we say never again

Thu 13 Oct, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane
(opposite the ice rink),
BD5 0BQ

BRISTOL

Hinkley Point—why nuclear power is not the answer

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY

Spain 1936—revolution and civil war

Wed 26 Oct, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St. James's St,
BB11 1NR

CAMBRIDGE

The great housing crisis

Thu 13 Oct, 7.30pm,
Signal Box,
Glenalmond Avenue
(off Clarendon Rd),
CB2 8DB

CHELMSFORD

Who was Leon Trotsky?

Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd,
CM1 2QL

COVENTRY

Why do borders exist under capitalism?

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
159 Spon St,
CV1 3BB

DUNDEE

The case for revolution

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

Can change come through parliament?

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL

HUDDERSFIELD

The US elections—is Hillary Clinton the lesser evil?

Wed 12 Oct, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

LIVERPOOL

Is the media all powerful?

Thu 13 Oct, 7pm,
The Caledonia,
22 Caledonia St,
L7 2DX

LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

No to grammar schools—what sort of education do we want?

Thu 13 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Pepperpot Centre,
1a Thorpe Close,
Ladbroke Grove (very close to the station),
W10 5XL

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS

PROTESTS AGAINST police killings of black people have swept the US

Legendary leader Malcolm X

From Black Power to Black Lives Matter THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM TODAY

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Wed 12 Oct, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

Thu 13 Oct, 6.30pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

CARDIFF

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

DONCASTER

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
Women's Centre,
21 Cleveland St,
DN1 3EH

HARLOW

Thu 13 Oct, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys,
CM18 6BX

LANCASTER

Thu 13 Oct, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Thu 13 Oct, 7pm,
The Swarthmore Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: NEWHAM

Wed 12 Oct, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP



LONDON: BRIXTON

The US elections—is Hillary Clinton the lesser evil?

Wed 12 Oct, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd,
facing Windrush Square),
SW2 1EP

LONDON: EALING

A very capitalist condition—a history and politics of disability
Thu 13 Oct, 7.30pm,
West London Trade Union Club,
33-35 Acton High St,
W3 6ND

LONDON: HACKNEY

Spain 1936—revolution betrayed

Thu 13 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

Immigration and nationalism—why does capitalism need borders?

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd (corner Vincent Rd), N15 3QH

LONDON: ISLINGTON

Bring down the borders—why we say no to immigration controls

Thu 13 Oct, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Marxism and ecology

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd (near Greenwich main line and DLR station), SE10 8JA

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

The US elections—is Hillary Clinton the lesser evil?

Wed 12 Oct, 7pm,
Oxford House,
Derbyshire St (opposite Bethnal Green Rd Tesco),
E2 6HG

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

What can we learn from Antonio Gramsci?

Wed 12 Oct, 7pm,
Chorlton Central Church (Meeting Room),
Barlow Moor Rd,
M21 8BF

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

Why we oppose all immigration controls

Thu 13 Oct, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

MEDWAY

Sustainability and Transformation Plans—how do we stop the attacks on the NHS?

Thu 13 Oct, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre (Conference Room),
272 High St, ME4 4BP

NEWCASTLE

The 1905 Russian Revolution

Thu 20 Oct, 7pm,
Broadacre House,
Market St, NE1 6HQ

NORTHAMPTON

Who was Leon Trotsky?

Tue 11 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Lab, 95-97 Charles St,
NN1 3BG

NORWICH

Syria—revolution, counter-revolution and civil war

Thu 13 Oct, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

After the leadership contest—where next for Corbyn and the Labour Party?

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
International Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

PLYMOUTH

Capitalism vs the environment—why won't our rulers act?

Thu 13 Oct, 7pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain,
PL4 6LF

POOLE

The burkini ban and the rise of Islamophobia

Mon 10 Oct, 7.30pm,
Butler & Hops,
88 High St,
BH15 1DB

PORTSMOUTH

Islamophobia, the burkini ban and a woman's right to choose

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
Somerstown Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

ROTHERHAM

US elections—is Hillary Clinton the lesser evil?

Wed 19 Oct, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist Church Centre,
Moorgate St,
S60 2EY

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Bring down the borders—why we oppose all immigration controls

Thu 13 Oct, 7pm,
Central United Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

Lessons of the German Revolution

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd,
SO15 2GY

TELFORD

Why we say open the borders—let the refugees in

Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,
Carriages,
The Parade,
Wellington,
TF1 1PY

WAKEFIELD

Why we oppose immigration controls

Wed 12 Oct, 7pm,
Lightwaves Centre,
Lower York St,
WF1 3LJ

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Syria—revolution, counter-revolution and civil war

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Royal Hotel,
Ablewell St,
WS1 2EL

YORK

Why socialists oppose nuclear power

Wed 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

DORCHESTER

After the contest—Corbyn and socialism

Mon 10 Oct, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club,
Colliton Park,
DT1 1XJ.

Organised by Dorset Socialists

LIVERPOOL

Confronting the rise in racism

Thu 20 Oct, 7pm,
Unite Building,
Jack Jones House,
2 Churchill Way, L3 8EF.
Organised by Stand Up To Racism

LONDON

Cable Street 80th anniversary

Sun 9 Oct, 12 noon,
Altab Ali Park,
Adler St, E1

MANCHESTER

Confronting the rise in racism

Speakers include Rebecca Long Bailey MP, Gus John and others.
Sat 29 Oct, 2.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St, M2 5NS.
Organised by Stand Up To Racism

NATIONAL

Stand Up To Racism conference

Sat 8 Oct, 10am,
Friends House,
173-177 Euston Rd,
London, NW1 2BJ

Marxism and Nature

Sat 15 Oct, 10.30am,
Central London, WC2E 9RZ.
This one day conference, hosted by the International Socialism journal, will explore the relevance of Marxist ideas to our understanding of environmental issues, discuss the specific reasons why capitalism is so destructive and debate different approaches to science and nature.

Book online at isj.org.uk/day-school-marxism-and-nature

Educational trip to Krakow & Auschwitz

Thu 3-Mon 7 Nov

The purpose of the trip is to better understand the Holocaust and the Nazis, and look at the Nazi threat today in Europe to ensure that history is learnt from.

See uaf.org.uk for more details. Organised by Unite Against Fascism and Love Music Hate Racism

Libraries, museums and galleries demonstration

Sat 5 Nov, 12 noon,
The British Library,
96 Euston Rd,
London, NW1 2DB.

Backed by Unison, Unite and PCS unions

United for Education demonstration

Sat 19 Nov, 10am,
Central London.

Backed by the National Union of Students and University and College Union

SCOTLAND

Marxism Festival

Scotland 2016

Sat 29 Oct, 10am,
Renfield St Stephen's,
260 Bath St, Glasgow, G2 4JP.

Meetings include: Will there be another recession?

Does Islam oppress women?

Scotland after Brexit

Corbyn, the Labour Party and the struggle for socialism

Imperialism today: the new fault lines.

Registration from 9.30am

Tickets (£3/£5/£10 solidarity price) available from

Socialist Worker sellers or from enquiries@swp.org.uk

CONTACT THE SWP

Phone 020 7840 5600

Email

enquires@swp.org.uk

Post PO Box 71327,

London SE11 9BW

A Rebel's Guide to Malcolm X

by Antony Hamilton

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop.
Phone 020 7637 1848 or bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



Will Damned expose Tories' cuts agenda in social work?

Damned, Channel 4's new sitcom about social workers, made a decent start. But we're yet to see if it will tackle the real issues, writes **Louise Harrisen**

BRINGING GRIM humour to a sitcom about social work is difficult territory to say the least. But that's what **Damned**, a new Channel 4 show created by Jo Brand, attempts to do.

It centres on a team of social workers in children's services. Their disorganisation, although exaggerated, reflects the chaotic environment that is the reality of the profession today.

The first episode introduces some of the team—a snitch, a permanent temp who is annoyingly chirpy, an autocratic manager and Brand's closest colleague Al (Alan Davies).

Viewers will warm to the characters. So far the show has also done well with its take on the coping mechanisms and banter employed to see them through the day.

“Good egg” Rose (Brand) has the air of someone who entered social work during the less judgmental 1980s, when there was an emphasis on assistance and enabling.

It's a sharp contrast to today, where those suffering hardship are deemed to have brought it on themselves.

I think many in social work will identify with the show and find it funny. But the very subject matter is controversial.

It attempts to submerge into an emotionally challenging environment and then emerge with humour.

This could easily be seen as trivialising some of the darkest stuff that both workers and families have to face.

Selloffs

With council selloffs of buildings there's not enough space for everyone to work. As yet the show hasn't touched on hot-desking or “agile working” from multiple offices—also known as fragile working.

I'm interested to see where the programme goes and if it starts to tease out some of the real issues.

Social work is in crisis from massive cuts at a time when caseloads are going through the roof.

Social workers are under pressure to spend precious time providing endless box ticking and form filling.

Children's social care is seriously threatened by privatisation. Senior management overflows with an array of overpaid, self-interested consultants and commissioners seeking to transfer services out of public control.

Protecting children and families should never be about profit. How far Brand goes to highlight some of these issues remains to be seen. But I'm going to give her the benefit of doubt.

Damned, Channel 4, Tuesdays, 9pm

Abstract expressionism

BLUE POLES (1952, detail), Jackson Pollock

When New York was alive with promise

EXHIBITION

ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM

Royal Academy of Arts.
Burlington House, Piccadilly,
London W1J 0BD.
Until 2 January
Tickets £17, under 16s go free
royalacademy.org.uk

THE ROYAL Academy's exhibition gives a glimpse of New York's artistic scene in the aftermath of the Second World War.

For a brief time before McCarthyite witch hunts of the 1950s, the city was full of promise.

You could hear Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie forging bebop's frenetic sound, Billie Holiday's aching voice or watch

Marlon Brando on stage.

The term “Abstract Expressionism” really refers to this specific period, not a particular artistic style.

Instead of painting picture-like images, these artists experimented with different techniques to make marks on canvass. But their approaches differed a lot.

Dripping

On show are Jackson Pollock's two most significant paintings Mural (1943) and Blue Poles (1952). He created them on his studio floor using a dripping process.

Franz Kline's images make you think of blurred photos taken at speed on New York's streets. They were made using strong

black and white swathes of house paint.

It's also great to see Lee Krasner's impressive works, but another key woman artist Helen Frankenthaler is under-represented.

Records

Some critics deride the fact that the CIA used their work. Like the jazz records of Louis Armstrong and Dave Brubeck, their works were shipped to Eastern Europe as examples of Western “free expression”.

But that had nothing to do with why these lasting works were created. So enjoy this big show. Look without prejudice at the daring, delightful and vivid work on the walls.

Nick Grant

THEATRE

A SUFFRAGETTE'S SONG

Written by Terry McGrath and performed by the Crouch End Players theatre company
The Supper Room,
Hornsey Town Hall Arts Centre,
London N8
19-22 October
Tickets £10
Go to hthartscentre.co.uk to book

THE CROUCH End Players' new production tells the true story of Kitty Marion, a music hall performer and militant

A Suffragette's Song

suffragette.

Marion left for the US after the First World War where she fought for women's right to birth control.

This all woman play blends Kitty's own words with popular Music Hall songs of the day.

A Suffragette's Song is a powerful, musical illustration of how women in Britain changed their lives through struggle.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- We Should All Be Feminists**
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- A Rebel's Guide to Malcolm X**
Antony Hamilton
- The Communist Manifesto (Little Black Classics)**
Karl Marx and Frederick Engels
- Jeremy Corbyn, Labour and the fight for socialism**
Charlie Kimber
- The Long Depression—Marxism and the Global Crisis of Capitalism**
Michael Roberts

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

THE TORIES and right wing press are ramping up their racist assault against migrants. Theresa May wants to bring in new restrictions on European Union (EU) migrants' rights—and some Tories want to end free movement altogether.

Not a day goes by without newspapers pushing racist lies, myths and half-truths about migrants.

But too many Labour politicians are going along with them and argue the left's priority should be addressing "legitimate concerns" about immigration.

It goes much further than Rachel Reeves MP's "rivers of blood" speech.

Socialist Worker has looked at their "concerns"—and answered them.

Do immigrants take our jobs, homes and services?

Greater Manchester mayoral candidate Andy Burnham told Labour conference that migration from eastern Europe had meant "job insecurity, more pressure on primary schools and GP services".

This may fit with people's experience.

The decade since the European Union (EU) expanded into east Europe has also been a decade of layoffs, spiralling housing costs and slashed public services.

Blaming migrants also fits the common sense argument that the more people a cake is shared between, the smaller everyone's slice. But this argument assumes that the size of the cake is fixed—it's not.

The number of jobs depends on bosses' decisions and whether or not capitalism is booming—not the number of migrants.

Schools, hospitals and local authorities are under pressure because the Tories have slashed their funding.

It's harder to get decent housing, but the number of houses isn't running out. At any given time there are some 635,000 empty homes in England alone and last year house building reached its highest level since the financial crisis.

But the houses that are being built aren't affordable and are used as lucrative assets by the super rich.

Housing costs have gone up most dramatically in London, where the population is going down because people can't afford to live there.

People don't just consume resources, they generate wealth.

Migrants in particular tend to be of working age and put in more than they take out. A study by the University

College London showed that migrants from the EU pay £20 billion more in taxes than they receive in benefits.

To get jobs, homes and public services will mean fighting the Tories and bosses—diverting the blame onto migrants is their attempt to stop that.

Do unskilled migrants undercut wages?

Shadow minister Barry Gardiner reconciled himself to not cutting the number of migrants by promising "quality controls on all migration".

Even some ardent racists admit that migrants' work is crucial to some sectors—notably the NHS. They call for cherry-picking those with the skills British bosses need, and for keeping out the rest.

The argument is deeply nationalistic. Why should Britain benefit from skilled workers trained by poorer countries without sharing the benefits of its richer economy with poorer migrants from those countries?

It's also based on false premises. Unskilled migrants aren't a burden—they come when there's a need for more labour.

The "British people" don't all share the same interests. Workers in Britain have nothing in common with their rulers—and everything in common with other workers abroad.

Thinking in terms of working class people's interests—not "national interests"—shows how one-sided immigration controls are.

No one restricts bosses moving money and hardware across borders—around 30 percent of global foreign direct investment flows goes through tax havens.

In contrast, workers have to bend over backwards to prove they should be let in.

Immigration controls are a weapon against our class. A study by the London School of Economics (LSE) found that immigration has not driven down wages.

While some bosses do pay migrant workers less, stopping this means fighting against the discrimination that lets them get away with it.

It's telling that those politicians who talk about low wages when discussing immigration are never the ones championing the fight for £10 hour minimum wage.

Strikes by migrant oil workers at Fawley refinery won equal pay this summer—and were backed by British-born colleagues.

Restricting migrants' rights makes it easier for bosses to blackmail migrants and divide the workforce.

That's what drives down wages and conditions.

JEREMY Corbyn and Diane Abbott (below) are among Labour politicians that defend immigration against attacks from fellow MPs Stephen Kinnock, Chuka Umunna and Rachel Reeves (right)

WHAT'S BEHIND LABOUR'S MIGRANT PANIC?

Too many Labour politicians are going along with the Tories' racist arguments that migrants are taking jobs, houses and driving down wages. Dave Sewell looks at the facts

which undesirables are trying to get into Britain.

They emphasise the "young men" among the refugees in Europe, downplaying the growing numbers of women and children on the move.

They scaremonger about foreign criminals, or link the refugee crisis to sexual assaults and terrorist attacks. This flies in the face of reality—and panders to old racist stereotypes about black men as a threat to white women.

The 7/7 bombers were born in Britain. Last year's Paris attacks were carried out by terrorists raised in France.

Terrorism is the fruit of imperialist wars. Keeping people out won't stop it.

Should we separate refugees from migrants?

Former shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper warned in her conference speech that turning a "tin ear" to anti-migrant attitudes "will stop others listening to our case for helping refugees".

Some refugee campaigners also stress that people who are fleeing wars aren't mere migrants out for better lives. Of course it's outrageous to

downplay the violence people are fleeing from in warzones such as Syria and Afghanistan.

But the division isn't always so neat. Poverty, starvation and environmental catastrophe can be as terrifying as bombs and bullets. People can be forced to flee—or choose to move—for complex sets of reasons.

Fear of violence can be the deciding factor for someone thinking of moving in search of work.

And someone fleeing a warzone will look for a destination where they can rebuild their lives.

Insisting on this separation between legitimate refugees and supposedly illegitimate migrants does two things.

It reinforces the idea that it's a bad thing when people from abroad come here.

It means a vast machinery of enforcement and controls—walls, fences, armed guards, detention centres and deportation flights.

This violent, arbitrary system is what forces refugees to risk their lives at sea or languish in Calais.

Instead of trying to isolate the sympathy for refugees from the broader immigration debate, anti-racists need to generalise it into a case against locking people out.

What about our language and culture?

Blairite Chuka Umunna told a Fabian Society fringe meeting, "we have got to be quite clear" to immigrants living "parallel lives" that they must "become part of the community".

It's a nod to the perception that migrant populations aren't "integrating" enough with British-born people.

This is particularly used to demonise Muslims, with their religion supposedly at odds with some mythical "British values". Tony Blair's governments also used this to smear those opposed to their wars as out of sync with these values.

The Tories have cut courses that teach English to migrants. Labour figures rightly slammed them and called for more support for those who wish to learn.

But why shouldn't people speak their own language if they choose?

Most people from migrant backgrounds already live and work alongside people born in Britain. If that's not enough, what would it mean to "get involved in the community"?

There isn't a monolithic

A Syrian refugee cries after she lost her daughter during clashes between Macedonian police and refugees

British culture that newcomers can simply adapt to or stay aloof from.

Culture is a fractured, varied thing in a constant state of flux. And one person's experience and expression of culture is always different to another's.

Migration has always been a big part of that process.

Surely it's not racist to want to cut immigration?

Responding to Jeremy Corbyn's speech, right winger Jack Straw said it's "neither racist nor xenophobic" to have "concerns about unrestricted migration".

Of course there is a huge difference between the 77 percent of people who want immigration reduced and the tiny minority of hardcore racists.

Working class people who accept some racist ideas about migrants shouldn't be treated in the same way as the racist politicians who push them (see right).

But it's impossible to limit immigration without racism—immigration controls discriminate against people based on what part of the world they come from.

They mean that some people in the country don't have a legal right to be here.

This leads to more discrimination—from the policing of "suspected illegal immigrants" to landlords and bosses avoiding those who look like they might be illegal.

It legitimises the racists on the streets who tell people to "go back home".

Pandering to racism won't help to beat it

IT'S NOT that most in Labour believe the myths about immigration.

But many are scared to confront those who do.

A number of Labour MPs, including Rachel Reeves, have called for free movement to be scrapped.

They believe that working class people have shifted to the right—and that Labour must accept right wing arguments about immigration to be elected.

They argue that disagreeing with working class people who accept myths about immigration is "patronising" them.

For some MPs that is precisely why immigration must be seen to be controlled. Stephen Kinnock said giving a "sense of reassurance and of control over our borders" can undercut racism by stopping people worrying.

But even if there are short-term gains in elections, legitimising hostility to migrants is deadly for Labour. It strengthens the Tories and feeds the racist right. It weakens the idea of solidarity that underlies Labour's support.

Migration has always taken place, so politicians' targets to restrict it mean little. But enforcing targets means more checks, more demands to show passports or birth certificates, more raids and more deportations.

This would only reinforce the perception of migrants as a "problem" and "outsiders".

What happens if the targets are missed? Guardian columnist Owen Jones suggests making hay out of the Tories' failure to lower the number of migrations, because they made a promise and couldn't keep it.

In practice, this would mean crowing that "too many" foreigners got into Britain.

Such tactics are founded on the faulty assumption that people's experiences of migration are what turn them against immigration.

But the opposite is true, as an Ipsos Mori poll carried out before the European Union referendum found.

When asked, 42 percent of people said immigration had a negative impact on Britain.

But only 24 percent thought it had been bad for their area.

And 51 percent said immigration had no impact on them personally.

This was even higher among Leave supporters—52 percent said immigration had not affected them.

We can't dodge arguments about immigration—but we can win them.

Fears of immigration aren't inevitable. As the poll showed people's ideas are shaped by both the propaganda that's pushed from the top and their own experiences of living and working alongside migrants.

This means that people's ideas can change.

Neighbours

The outpouring of solidarity for refugees in September last year demonstrated how that can happen.

Up to 100,000 people marched through London and millions donated and signed petitions—something that hadn't seemed possible during the general election a few months earlier.

When asylum seekers were allocated to Glasgow housing estates in the late 1990s and early 2000s, their new neighbours were outraged at attempts to deport them.

If there is such thing as a "white working class", it includes the Glaswegians who got up before dawn to thwart Border Agency raids.

Turning the tide will take patient, principled arguments against the racist myths used to divide us.

But it will also take mass struggles that unite workers and give them confidence to assert the interests of their class and take on our rulers' lies.

The right don't want to see that—and the left must do much more to build it.

Many people back the right of migrants to come to Britain

London Met strike fights cuts chaos

by SADIE ROBINSON

STRIKERS AT London Metropolitan University have won huge support from trade unionists, students and others, including Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

UCU union members struck on Thursday of last week. They are fighting job cuts, attacks on conditions and the victimisation of union reps David Hardman and Mark Campbell.

The next step for many strikers is for the national union to begin greylisting, or a boycott, of London Met.

UCU general secretary Sally Hunt told a rally that the union would support David and Mark “all the way”.

Confidence

She added, “What is happening now can be reversed. I have every confidence in this branch.”

Mark told the rally, “We need the national union to step in. I believe there will be a unanimous decision to greylister this university unless management back down.”

Strikers told Socialist Worker of the dire situation at London Met. “It’s chaos,” said one striker. “Reappointments of staff in some subject



VICTIMISED UNION rep Mark Campbell joined the picket line last week

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

areas weren’t finalised until induction week. Students were turning up and we didn’t know who was still employed.

“Some course leaders found out about their positions when it was announced to students.”

Many strikers were afraid to be

named, citing a “culture of bullying”.

Bosses are imposing nearly 400 redundancies and are attacking conditions.

One picket explained, “My teaching timetable last year was 100 percent full. This year I was told the

same workload was 73 percent.”

David Hardman explained that some workers “are expected to teach subjects they have no experience in”.

Student Harley said the university seemed “in a permanent state of change”. “None of it is about educa-

tion,” he added.

Lecturers face lesson observations for the first time and could even have lectures recorded. Workers must support the university’s “values”, such as “one community, one campus”.

“That means you have to agree with them selling off loads of buildings,” said one striker.

A sustained national campaign, including a greylister, would boost workers’ confidence to take further action. Workers can beat the bosses.

Sandy Nicoll, Unison union branch secretary at the School of Oriental and African Studies, joined pickets to show solidarity.

Victimised

He told Socialist Worker, “When I was victimised last year, we had a victory after workers took unofficial action. It showed we can win. The UCU needs to step up its action.”

Mandy Brown, a member of the UCU national executive committee, spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity. “London Met is a test of how much bosses can get away with,” she said.

“The national union needs to make this a dispute of national significance.”

Rush messages of support to uculondonmet@mail.com

**JOIN THE
SOCIALIST
WORKERS
PARTY**

- ☐ Yes, I'd like to be a member
☐ Please send me some information

Name
Address
.....
Postcode
Phone
Email

Return to SWP membership department, PO Box 42184,
London SW8 2WD. Phone 020 7840 5602
Email membership@swp.org.uk



Subscribe to Socialist Worker

Have Socialist Worker delivered with your post every week for a direct debit of £5 a month

I want to subscribe to Socialist Worker with a monthly direct debit of £5

Name

Address.....

Postcode

E-mail

Phone

I would like ____ extra papers to sell
(this will not be deducted from my bank account)

For official use only—this is not part of the instructions to
your bank/building society

Sherborne Publications,
PO Box 42184, London SW8 2WD

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay
by direct debit

Originator identification no. 9 7 3 3 5 5

Our reference no.

.....

1. Name and full postal address of your bank or building
society

To the manager:

Bank/building society

Address

Postcode

2. Name(s) of account holder(s)

.....

3. Branch sort code / /

4. Bank/building society account no.

5. Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay Sherborne Publications direct debits from
the account detailed on this instruction subject to
the safeguards assured by the direct debit guarantee.

I understand that this instruction may remain with
Sherborne Publications and, if so, details will be passed
electronically to my bank or building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept
Direct Debit instructions from some types of account



Direct debit guarantee

■ This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that
accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.

■ If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your
Direct Debit Sherborne Publications will notify you ten working
days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise
agreed. If you request Sherborne Publications to collect a payment,
confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time
of the request.

■ If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by
Sherborne Publications or your bank or building society you are
entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your
bank or building society.

■ If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back
when Sherborne Publications asks you to.

■ You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting
your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required.
Please also notify us.

Socialist Worker Subscriptions

Post PO Box 42184, London SW8 2WD
Phone 020 7840 5601

Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

Fracking ships set course for a climate catastrophe

One of Scotland's most notorious bosses says jobs are in 'safe hands' with his fracked shale gas from the US. Raymie Kiernan takes apart the false promise

IT WAS meant to be Jim Ratcliffe's big day. The billionaire union-bashing boss of tax-dodging chemical giant Ineos amassed the media to Grangemouth in Scotland last week to watch his "shale gas revolution".

They were wine and dined ready for the arrival of a 180-metre Dragon class super tanker laden with 27,500 cubic metres of liquefied gas.

This is the first of many shipments of fracked shale gas from the US. Ineos plans to move 40,000 barrels every day for the next 15 years.

A bagpiper was to play on deck as it sailed down the Firth of Forth.

Ironically Scotland's greatest renewable energy resource ruined Ratcliffe's fossil fuel party. The wind prevented the tanker from docking.

It did dock with the next tide—greeted by protesters. Scottish National Party ministers, wary of the negative reaction it could provoke, declined the invitation to the party.

Stake

Ratcliffe denounced them. He has well over £1 billion at stake in his plan to bring US shale gas to Europe.

He said 10,000 jobs in and around the vast Grangemouth complex "are in very safe hands" for 20 years because of imported US shale gas.

That's the same Ratcliffe who repeatedly used the blackmail of threatening closures and layoffs to get government grants and loan guarantees—and union retreats over workers' conditions.

Now he's out to bribe locals, offering 6 percent of Ineos' shale revenues.

As Friends of the Earth points out, this is based on optimistic assumptions about shale gas yields. And if



THE FIRST of many Ineos supertankers sailing up the Firth of Forth

MARXISM & NATURE

One day conference hosted by International Socialism Journal

Saturday 15 October
10.30am-5pm
Student Central, Malet St, London, WC1E 7HY

isj.org.uk • 0207 840 5640 • isj@swp.org.uk

fracking doesn't pay off for Ratcliffe he can walk away without paying a penny of this "community benefit".

His main supplier is Range Resources, with access to frack about 1 million acres across Pennsylvania. It has been fined £3 million for polluting soil and groundwater.

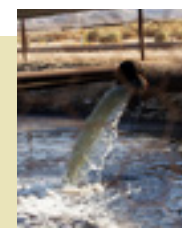
Activists in Pennsylvania appealed to Scotland not to accept its gas.

"Americans are being sacrificed by having this production near their homes, schools and farms," said the Citizens for Clean Water campaign.

United Against Fossil Fuels said people are being used as "lab rats for the fossil fuel industry".

Ratcliffe dismissed criticisms of Range Resources in a recent radio interview, likening its "occasional issues" to getting a "puncture" in a tyre. When pressed further he threatened, "Do you want those 10,000 jobs or do you not want those jobs?"

As long as the energy production is in the hands of the likes of Ineos and Jim Ratcliffe people and the planet will be sacrificed for profit.



What the frack about water?

FRACKING IS blasting water, chemicals and sand to fracture shale rock and release gas. It can pollute the water table and cause earthquakes.

Each well can see 5-10 million litres of waste water flow back, with salts, chemicals and radioactive material. Where might this be dumped? "Most likely the sea," said Ineos.

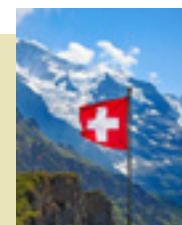


No safety for the workers

INEOS-RUN plants at Grangemouth breached health and safety regulations 34 times from 2011 to 2014.

They were condemned as "poor" for pollution three years in a row and served 11 legal enforcement notices.

More than 20 workers were injured in the first three months of 2015.



Tangled up in tax avoidance

INEOS, A web of over 80 firms, slashed its tax bill by moving to Switzerland.

Its petrochemical plant is owned by Ineos Chemicals Grangemouth, owned by Ineos Europe Holdings, owned by Ineos Jersey.

Its oil refinery is owned by Ineos Manufacturing Scotland, owned by Petroineos Manufacturing Scotland, owned by Ineos Refining Li, a venture of PetroChina and Ineos Investments (Jersey).

Ratcliffe is blowing hot air over jobs and emissions

THE AMOUNT of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere passed the symbolic milestone of 400 parts per million last year.

It isn't dropping this year. Even if the world stopped emitting carbon

dioxide tomorrow, what is already in the atmosphere will remain for many decades.

This year has also been the hottest year on record.

But don't worry—Ineos argues that "extracting shale gas is fully

consistent with tackling climate change".

It claims that natural gas is the "only alternative" to coal that can "provide the energy we need with reduced CO2 emissions".

But using gas produces more than enough greenhouse gases to stop us addressing climate change even if it replaced coal entirely. In reality the gas is likely to be burned as well as coal, not instead.

Bizarrely Ineos even claims that carbon

emissions could be further reduced by fracking in Britain instead of importing it.

That would only bring the same environmental destruction that fracking has caused in the US to Britain.

Ineos holds licences to frack over 1 million acres of central Scotland, northern England and the east Midlands.

There is an alternative—generating genuinely renewable energy from the sun, wind and tide, conserving

it with better insulated homes and replacing most car use with public transport. This would also create far more jobs than fracking.

Ineos points to figures from management consultants Ernst & Young to claim that a polluting shale gas industry could create 64,000 jobs in Britain.

The Campaign Against Climate Change has shown that a million climate jobs could be created through serious action to cut emissions.



Boss in workers' clothing—Jim Ratcliffe

IN BRIEF

**Chiefs under fire
back down on sack**

BOSSES AT Greater Manchester Fire Authority have backed down from putting all firefighters on redundancy notice.

They wanted to force through new contracts with new terms and conditions—and slash 250 jobs.

But an angry response from FBU union members forced bosses to retreat.

Bosses still plan to make cuts and are in talks with union officials.

**Stop presses for
Newsquest jobs**

JOURNALISTS WORKING on regional newspapers in south London were set to begin a 14-day strike this Thursday.

The NUJ union members at Newsquest newspapers are fighting plans to slash jobs—with nearly the entire newsroom at risk of being made redundant.

Bosses have said they want to axe 11 jobs. The remaining 18 workers will be expected to produce 11 newspapers and eight websites if the cuts go ahead.

**Ritz's revenge
opens on Friday**

WORKERS AT the Ritz cinema in Brixton, south London, are set to strike from Friday at 7pm in an ongoing dispute over pay.

It follows a strike on Saturday 20 September. They're demanding the London Living Wage of £9.40 an hour and maternity, paternity and sick pay.

●For more details go to Ritz Living Wage on Facebook, Twitter or Tumblr

**Glasgow council
divides unions**

SOME 100 Unison and GMB union members at Glasgow council-owned firm Community Safety Glasgow, struck for 48 hours last weekend against cuts to unsocial hours pay.

About 30 Unite members were due to join the action but decided not to strike after management made an offer over a separate issue of pay protection. Unison and GMB members have voted to take further action.

**Airport protesters
take on Heathrow**

MORE THAN 100 people protested inside London Heathrow airport last Saturday against plans for airport expansion.

The protest, organised by Reclaim the Power, included a “die-in” on the terminal floor. Airport expansion will have deadly effects on the climate.

Parliament is set to vote later this month on where to build a new runway in London, with Tory MPs divided over Heathrow.

TRANSPORT WORKERS

Support the Southern strikers to beat cash-grabbing tycoons

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

AS SOUTHERN train guards prepared for a 72-hour walkout next Tuesday, bosses made a PR blunder asking passengers to “strike back” by tweeting at their RMT union.

It backfired as most instead attacked bosses and expressed solidarity with the workers.

Southern train guard Victor told Socialist Worker, “We haven’t come this far and through so much to walk away.”

“We are in this for the long haul and the company shouldn’t be in any doubt about that. We’ll fight this all the way.”

Southern’s parent company Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) wants to extend driver only operation, replacing guards’ safety critical role and replace it with an onboard supervisor role.

It insists this isn’t about money but “modernisation”—but it exposed its real motives in an email to workers.

It said, “We are extending the penalty fare scheme to cover all GTR stations from 30 September”.

VIRGIN TRAINS

Taking the East Coast picket line

VIRGIN TRAINS East Coast (Vtec) workers walked out on strike on Monday.

Picketing London King’s Cross station, RMT union rep Claudine explained, “Vtec made a lot of profit last year and want more. They want to get rid of 195 jobs but we’re already short staffed.”

Darren, another rep, warned Vtec was merging

Hitting targets for reducing ticketless travel will give GTR shareholders a tidy bonus from the Department for Transport.

To do this it is using penalty fares instead of hiring extra staff. Imposing the supervisor role will make guards police penalty fares—leaving train



STRIKERS AT London King's Cross

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

some roles and scrapping others in a way that undermines safety.

The East Coast railway was hugely successful as a

publicly-run service—but the Tories reprivatised it and now bosses are squeezing the franchise for all it's worth.

drivers with sole safety responsibility.

To deflect attention from its skeleton staffing levels, GTR blames its woeful service on workers using illness as a form of unofficial action. If bosses had any real evidence of that they would have used the Tory

anti-union laws, just as they've repeatedly done to stop drivers striking. The Tory government backs GTR to the hilt and other rail firms are watching, ready to repeat the attack. Solidarity can help the guards to victory. ●Send messages of support to 1885wackers@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Durham TAs ballot at last

OVER 1,700 teaching assistants (TAs) in County Durham were set to begin a strike ballot on Thursday.

It comes after a massive vote to reject the Labour authority's latest offer of “compensation” for cutting the pay of already low paid workers, 2,700 in total, by 23 percent.

It is also the result of rank and file pressure on the Unison union's regional and national leadership and fears that its failure to fight could lose members.

TAs are agitating for a massive vote for strikes. TA

Jan told Socialist Worker, “The majority of TAs are prepared to strike—we can't afford not to.”

Many are also looking to build wider support, such as by having Unison general secretary Dave Prentis head up a big rally or producing a leaflet aimed at parents.

After months of union inaction, TAs have forced it to fight. They now need solidarity.

●Send a solidarity message and requests for a TA to speak at your trade union branch to the rank and file committee at spartacusannie@gmail.com

ROUND-UP

Agency shame in Coventry

BOSSES AT Coventry University are attacking workers' conditions by using subsidiary firms, according to the UCU union.

The UCU has written to the university to condemn CU Services Ltd for sacking workers with a plan to re-employ them through agency thefutureworks, a trading name of Coventry University Enterprises Ltd.

Both this and CU Services Ltd are wholly owned by

Coventry University.

UCU general secretary Sally Hunt called the plan “shameful”. Workers last month won union recognition at CU Services Ltd after a unanimous vote.

■WORKERS AT Hull College have voted by 86 percent for strikes to save jobs.

Bosses plan to make 141 redundancies—meaning the closure of all nurseries and a number of courses.

DEFENDING THE NHS

SUPPORTERS OF Keep Our NHS Public (KONP) protested outside QMC hospital, Nottingham, on Friday of last week after a rat was found in a ward kitchen.

An angry public meeting also took place in Grantham, Lincolnshire on Saturday against the evening closure of A&E at Grantham Hospital.

The nearest A&Es open at night are now in Nottingham and Lincoln. Many fear the hospital's closure.

Some 3,000 people joined a protest last month. Another is set for Saturday 29 October—the same day as a protest in Leicester to save the children's unit at Glenfield Hospital.

Richard Buckwell



HUNDREDS MARCHED through Telford on Saturday against proposals to close the A&E and women and children's services at the Princess Royal Hospital. Protesters rejected attempts to play off the services in Telford and Shrewsbury against each other—both are needed

PICTURE: DAVE SMITH

ROTHERHAM ABUSE TRIAL

A MAN accused of sexual assaults denied knowing his accusers but had contacted two of them on Facebook, a court has heard.

Ishtiaq Khaliq is one of eight men on trial at Sheffield Crown Court. They deny 19 charges, including rape and indecent assault.

Michelle Colborne QC questioned Khaliq last week. He denied he was the “Ishtiaq” that complainants referred to. Khaliq denies one count of rape and three of indecent assault. He told the court the allegations were “false”.

The court heard that Khaliq had previous convictions, including a theft conviction for an offence against a 13 year old girl.

Khaliq said he had stopped offending in 2005.

Defendant Waleed Ali, who denies one count of rape and one of indecent assault against one girl, also gave evidence.

Ali had previously said the only co-defendants he knew were Ishtiaq Khaliq and Masoued Malik. He admitted under questioning that he knew co-defendants Asif Ali

RMT ROUND-UP

**Safety goes down
Tubes in London**

LONDON TUBE station workers are to be balloted for strikes over issues caused by job cuts and ticket office closures. These include the role of control rooms, forced displacement and grading.

Management's own report recently blamed job cuts and an unstaffed control room for a serious incident at Canning Town station. An evacuation spiralled out of control following an accident.

Virgin's dirty tricks

CLEANERS ON Virgin West Coast train line are to be balloted for action against a 15 percent cut to staff.

The RMT union members work for Voith Industrial Services, contracted by Alstom who are in turn contracted by Virgin.

They are also fighting a three-year pay freeze and the imposition of new conditions.

Pay deal at Calmac

CALMAC FERRY workers in Scotland have secured a new pay offer.

The workers' RMT union is set to ballot and is recommending acceptance of the new one-year deal—a 2 percent rise from 1 October and 1.5 percent bonus next year.

and Sageer Hussain in 2003.

Ali said the complainant had made up the allegations.

Malik told the court last week that he had sex with one complainant twice in 2003. He denies rape, conspiracy to commit indecent assault and false imprisonment.

Sageer Hussain, who has been described as the “key” defendant in the case, and Mohammed Whied will not be giving evidence.

The case continues.

●Longer version online at socialistworker.co.uk

AMAZON

TRADE UNIONISTS blocked the road outside the Amazon depot in Dunfermline, Fife, last Saturday in a protest over working conditions.

The event was called by the People's Assembly and the Unite union. Workers going in to work cheered.

The 100-strong crowd heard allegations of workplace harassment and bullying.

Amazon pays an insignificant proportion of its profits in tax—yet still gets support from the Scottish and British governments.

Lici Kopiej



Protesting against Amazon's working conditions

JUSTICE CAMPAIGNS

The fights against injustices and lies

by SADIE ROBINSON

AROUND 80 people gathered for a conference hosted by the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign in Sheffield last Saturday.

The campaign is fighting for an inquiry into the 1984 Battle of Orgreave. Police attacked striking miners, then tried to frame them for riot.

Activists from various campaigns joined former miners. Jawed Siddiqi spoke about the Rotherham 12 campaign (see right column).

He compared their fight for justice with that of miners. "I became a coordinator for collecting for the striking miners," he said.

"If other unions had shown the same determination as the miners, we wouldn't be



Abrar of the Rotherham 12 also spoke at the conference

where we are now."

Eileen Turnbull from the Shrewsbury 24 Campaign described the mainstream media's failure to report on MPs' decision to release documents relating to the Shrewsbury case.

The Shrewsbury 24 were striking building workers put

on trial for conspiracy.

Eileen said, "It was such a momentous occasion and yet not one newspaper reported on it."

Chris Skidmore, chair of the Yorkshire National Union of Mineworkers, said, "I'm sick of people who stand up for their rights being called 'rent a mob' and 'bully boys'."

Mark George QC said the trial of miners after Orgreave showed "wholesale collusion" that "went to the very top" of South Yorkshire Police.

Meanwhile a group of retired officers offered to give evidence against police in any inquiry into Orgreave.

The OTJC has appealed for supporters to send messages to Tory home secretary Amber Rudd to demand an inquiry.

Go to OTJC.org.uk

ROTHERHAM 12

A TRIAL of 12 men from Rotherham, South Yorkshire, was set to start at Sheffield Crown Court on Thursday.

The Asian men were arrested after an anti-fascist protest against Britain First in Rotherham last year.

They face charges including violent disorder.

The Rotherham 12 campaign was launched following the arrests to defend the men—and the right to protest.

Its slogan is "self defence is no offence". Campaigners have called for people to show solidarity by rallying outside the court at 9am on Thursday and at 12 noon.

Abrar, one of the Rotherham 12, told a rally in Sheffield last Saturday, "This is about the oppression of the working class."

RADICAL INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGN

Pushing for indyref2 and unity against austerity

OVER 200 people attended the Radical Independence Campaign (Ric) conference in Glasgow last Saturday.

Although smaller than previous Ric conferences, the conference attempted to assess how, post-Brexit, the campaign for independence was developing.

There was wide support for Jeremy Corbyn's attempts to democratise the Labour Party despite Labour's opposition to independence.

Although the conference did not make a specific call for setting a date for a second independence referendum, there was criticism of the Scottish National Party's (SNP) cautiousness on the issue.

Patrick Harvie, a Green Party MSP said, "The SNP has to work with all progressive

forces. We need action not words against austerity"

Harvie said that the second independence campaign must be linked to demands for a more fair and equal Scotland.

Closing the conference Jonathan Shafi of Ric said that "everyone in this room has to work together".

He urged people "to build a grassroots movement for Independence."

"We're not going to ask anyone's permission for that."

However, running throughout many of the conference discussions was a sense of expectantly waiting for the SNP government to launch the second referendum campaign. Rather than do that we should ramp up the fight against austerity now.

Jim Main

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

People's Conference calls for movement to develop

SOME 250 people attended the People's Conference held in parallel to the Tory Party conference in Birmingham last Saturday.

It was organised by the People's Assembly.

Activists from across Britain listened to speeches and discussed how to combat the Tories' continuing austerity.

Speakers included film director Ken Loach, Lindsey German from Stop the War, Dave Ward of the CWU union, former leader of the Green Party Natalie Bennett, and Birmingham Stop the War activist Salma Yaqoob.

Several speakers said that the campaign to re-elect Jeremy Corbyn had taken

energy from the movement over the summer.

But it was important not to simply watch Labour but to keep building on the streets, developing a plan for a "People's Brexit" and build the People's Assembly.

Ward used his speech to argue for a mass movement against the Tories' economic plans.

He said, "If Jeremy Corbyn grew the Labour Party to over 500,000 members, we can put one million people on the streets for the TUC-backed march in April"

Former Birmingham City councillor Yaqoob said, "Mainstream politicians have been feeding racism drip by drip. We have to stand united"

ANTI-FRACKING

Fracking activist could face jail or £55,000 costs

THE GOVERNMENT was expected this week to announce its decision on whether to allow fracking at two sites in Lancashire.

Lancashire County Council voted against the plans by gas firm Cuadrilla last year, amid protests and following widespread campaigning.

But then Greg Clarke, Tory communities minister, announced that central government was taking it out of the council's hands.

It is ruling on Cuadrilla's appeal and could deliver its verdict on Friday.

Meanwhile leading Lancashire anti-fracking activist Tina Rothery could face jail for contempt of court.

Tina's "contempt" consists of refusing to pay £55,000 in eviction costs from a Lancashire field earmarked for fracking.

In fact, protesters had already thoroughly cleaned and left the field when bailiffs arrived.

Bailiffs came to a protest outside Buckingham Palace last week to hand her a summons to attend court on 19 October.

BUS WORKERS

Pay action in Ipswich

ABOUT 140 Ipswich bus drivers were set to strike for 24 hours on Monday in a battle against low pay for those starting on the job.

The action is aimed at raising the pay for the lowest paid drivers working for Ipswich Buses, which is owned by the borough council.

The strike will start at 4.55am on 10 October.

Unite regional officer Steve Linger said, "All drivers will be striking in solidarity in this fight—they voted by a majority of 90 percent for strikes."

Two-thirds of the drivers have accepted the new rate of £11 but newer drivers have been offered £8.81 an hour.

CLEANERS

Cleaners insist they are not second class

CLEANERS AT the London School of Economics (LSE) are demanding the same pay and terms and conditions as directly employed workers at the university.

They receive the London Living Wage of £9.40 an hour while other workers are paid over £11 an hour.

Their sick pay, holiday entitlement and other conditions are the minimum legal requirements.

The cleaners are employed by Noonan Services Ltd while the rest of the workers at the university are employed directly by the LSE.

Workers at the meeting spoke out against the intensity of work.

Mildred said, "I'm doing



Workers and their supporters at LSE

three people's jobs."

As with many similar workplaces, the cleaners are migrant workers, mainly from Latin America and Africa.

The initial protest was organised by United Voices of the World. A spokesperson for the LSE told Socialist Worker that negotiations have now

begun between the Unison union, the LSE and Noonan.

It is only now that cleaners have organised that management have begun to take notice.

Alistair Farrow

Protest this Friday, 7 Oct, 1pm, Garrick Cafe, Houghton St, London WC2B 4RR

BOMBING WON'T END THE KILLING

by CHARLIE KIMBER

HUNDREDS OF people have been killed and whole residential districts destroyed in Aleppo, Syria, in the last two weeks.

Aleppo was Syria's most populated city before the regime of Bashar Al-Assad moved to crush a revolutionary uprising in 2011.

The bloody killing has escalated since the recent collapse of a ceasefire.

Russian aircraft bombed alongside Syrian government forces last weekend, with waves of air strikes on Aleppo.

Hospitals

M10, one of the city's main hospitals, was hit. At least four patients were killed and many more were injured.

M10 had already been hit on Wednesday of last week along with the second-largest hospital in the area.

Doctor Mohammad Abu Rajab said, "This was systematic and direct targeting of this hospital, which was home to paediatric and women's health specialists."

POLAND

Thousands hit Warsaw's streets as anger grows at proposed abortion ban

by ANDY ZEBROWSKI in Warsaw

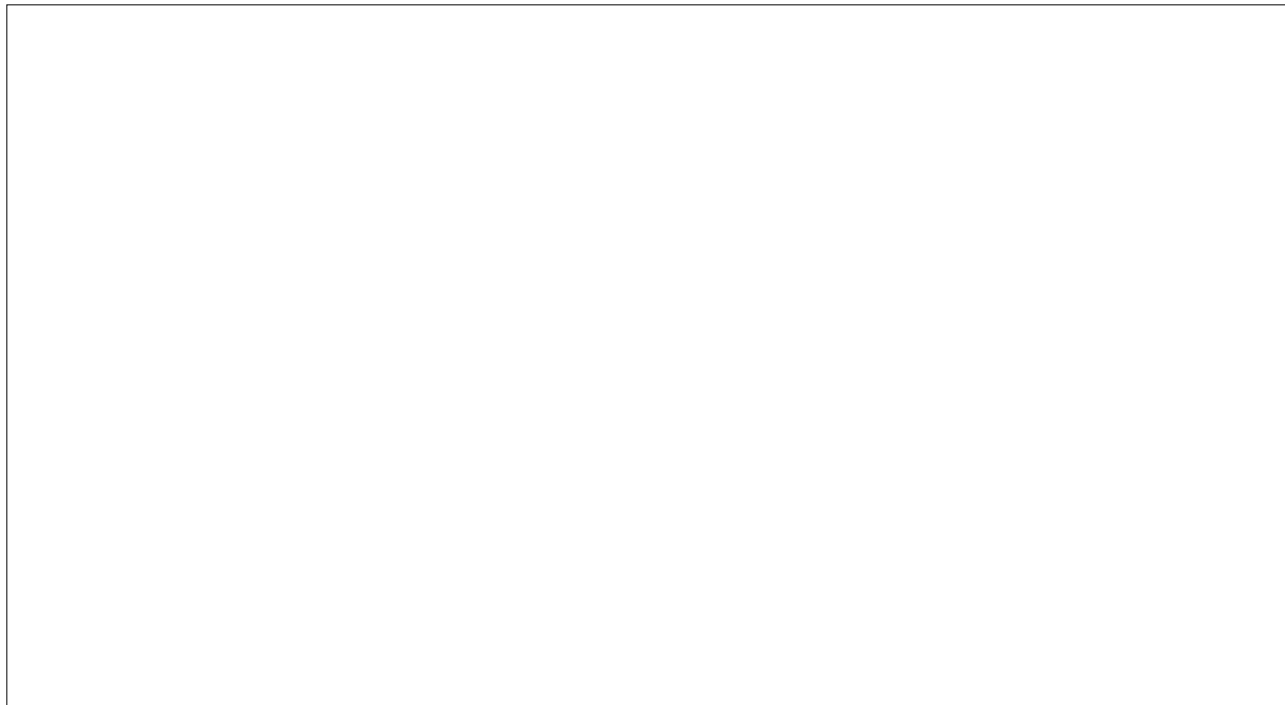
THE FIGHT for abortion rights in Poland has exploded onto the streets.

Up to 20,000 protested outside the parliament in Warsaw last Saturday.

It was the biggest demonstration against a proposed law that would further restrict abortion rights.

Tens of thousands then took part in a "women's strike" on Monday.

The majority of protesters were young women mostly dressed in black—the colour of the protest movement.



SYRIAN RESCUE workers pull a child from the rubble in Aleppo

More than 300 civilians have been killed in eastern Aleppo in the last three weeks, according to the United Nations.

The US and Britain have condemned the assaults. But

how can they do so with a shred of credibility after the relentless brutality of Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya?

Not to mention the arms sales and support to Saudi Arabia, which is raining down

death on civilians in Yemen.

The horror in Syria is the result of the Assad regime's counter-revolution—and the intervention of all the squabbling imperialist powers.

The US, Russia and their

allies are as terrified of a genuine insurrection from below as Assad is.

The Russians think the best block to real change is to prop up the regime.

The West hopes to replace

it with one that will act as their proxy.

Meanwhile the people of Syria are murdered and driven from their homes.

They then face the barbed wire and walls designed to keep them out of "sympathetic" European countries.

What is happening now in Syria shows the barbarity of a ruling class when it sees a threat to its power.

Threat

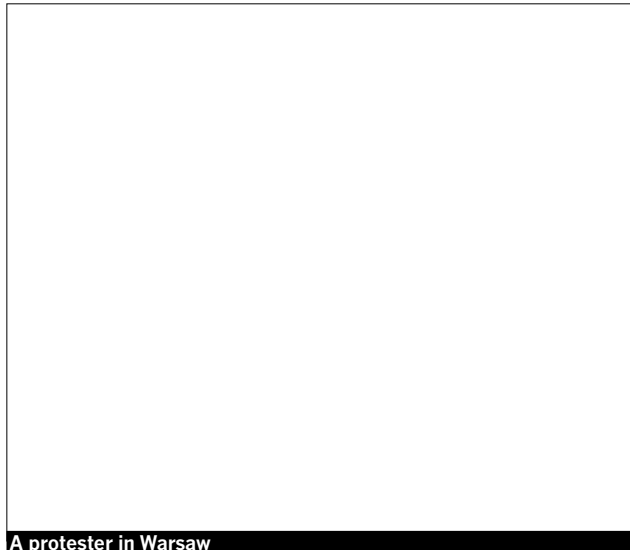
A "no fly" zone against Assad, backed up by the threat of more missiles and bombs, is no solution.

It is a pathway to even greater war. General Joseph Dunford, chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, explained to the Senate Armed Forces Committee what a no fly zone would mean.

"For us to control all of the airspace in Syria would require us to go to war against Syria and Russia," he said.

He was criticised by committee chair John McCain who argued a no-fly zone is possible without war.

But Dunford's thinking is far more likely to be true.



A protester in Warsaw

Chants of "We will stop the fanatics", "Disgrace! MPs are building a hell for women" and "We want doctors, not missionaries" rang out.

Unions

The OPZZ and ZNP trade unions encouraged their members to join street protests. This formal union backing is very important for the pro-choice movement.

The new left party Razem (Together) also played a major part in the pro-choice movement.

It launched the "black protest" last month, with demonstrations

and pickets in many towns and cities.

The new movement is much bigger than anything we have seen around abortion rights in more than 20 years.

This week's protests come after months of demonstrations across Poland.

Illegal

The proposed law would make abortion illegal even if the foetus was damaged, the pregnancy was a result of rape or if the woman's life was endangered.

Women and their doctors would also face prison.

A poll taken before Saturday's protest shows that 15 percent of people in Poland want to take part in the campaign, another 35 percent support it and only 14 percent oppose it.

The pro-choice movement is escalating fast—and is changing people's minds in the wider population.

Andy Zebrowski is a revolutionary socialist in Pracownicza Demokracja (Workers' Democracy) in Poland

More online

For a longer report go to bit.ly/2dmDBel